

THE LONDON BALLET CIRCLE

VISITS POLICY

The London Ballet Circle (LBC) regularly arranges visits to ballet schools and other organisations which benefit from the support and generosity of the Charity's Members. In addition, on the basis of a long-term relationship with the Yorkshire Ballet Summer Seminars, the LBC also provides information which enables Members to make their own bookings to watch classes and to obtain accommodation there.

In all cases, the access LBC Members and Guests are afforded by schools and companies is a very real privilege and, in turn, the interest shown by the LBC is much valued and appreciated.

A. SAFEGUARDING YOUNG PEOPLE

Every organisation with students or employees aged under 18 has to have stringent policies and practices in place in order to comply with the statutory guidance resulting from child protection legislation and related requirements. Therefore, our visits, observation and any informal contact with young people aged under 18 are subject to Members and Guests of the London Ballet Circle adhering to the boundaries set by the organisations concerned. Consequently, anyone participating in such a visit will be asked to signify that they have read and will abide by the 'rules'.

The schools' latest Safeguarding Policies are reflected in the following guidelines, which should be interpreted as applying also to young dancers in companies:

- 1) Visitors must be on the guest list for a visit or event and must not wander around the premises on their own.
- 2) Conversations with students should take place only in the public meeting areas. [Between classes, students will be rushing from one studio or classroom to another and members should refrain from stopping them in corridors or on stairways.] Care should be taken to treat all students with courtesy and consideration and to avoid remarks of a personal nature.
- 3) There should be no physical contact of any kind between LBC Members/Guests and the students.
- 4) In order to protect Members/Guests from any accusations of inappropriate behaviour as well as to safeguard students, there should be no direct personal communication with students by any means (including social media, text, phone, e-mail or letter). [Any such communication should be made through the school's office.]
- 5) Members/Guests should not give their personal contact details to students.
- 6) Members/Guests should not send gifts to students. [However, if a Member/Guest wishes to send cards following a performance, these should be forwarded to the school's office, not to the students directly.]
- 7) There should be no photography, filming, or recording during the visit.
- 8) Members/Guests should not arrange to entertain students outside the school.
- 9) If, at any time, a Member/Guest has any reason to be concerned about the welfare of a student, he/she should advise the school immediately.
- 10) If, at any time, a Member/Guests has any reason to be concerned about the behaviour towards a student of a fellow Member or Guest during a visit, he/she should immediately advise both the school/organisation and the LBC Chair or the lead Trustee/Committee Member present at the time. [The Member/Guest should not, under any circumstances, approach the person about whom he/she has the concern.]

In the unlikely event that there is an incident or an expression of concern, the issue will need to be dealt with under the safeguarding policies and procedures of the school/organisation being visited. The LBC will cooperate fully in this and will expect its Members and Guests to do likewise.

B. CONFIDENTIALITY

All classes/rehearsals are taken by renowned teachers or coaches, a number of them well known current or former stars of various top Companies. The sessions they lead are essentially private and Members/Guests are asked to keep discussion of what they have observed to within the visiting group, to avoid any kind of comment on social media, to use their discretion in approaching tutors with questions or conversing with them, and to preserve absolute confidentiality in relation to any information obtained as a result of the visit.

If, at any time, an LBC Member/Guest has reason to be concerned about the actions of a fellow LBC visitor vis a vis the tutors or other staff (or, indeed, other LBC Members/Guests), he/she should immediately advise the lead Trustee/Committee Member (if present) or contact the LBC Chair so that the matter may be dealt with in accordance with the LBC's Complaints Procedure. [It is advisable that the Member or LBC Guest making the report does not approach the person about whom he/she has the concern.]

Revised by the Trustees: 05/09/19 Reviewed: 03/03/20 Next review due: March 2022 latest