



PERFORMERS THEATRE COMPANY

School Handbook

www.performerstheatrecompany.com

At Performers Theatre Company, our aim is to offer high quality teaching and outstanding performance opportunities to children and young people aged between 5-18. Our highly skilled and professionally trained teachers aspire to give our children the chance to perform to their highest ability in all aspects of the performing arts through building their performance, self-confidence, physical, mental, social and life skills in engaging and exemplary lessons. It is our goal to give our children long-lasting memories and performance opportunities that will allow them to achieve and prosper in all areas of their future lives.

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After making the decision to open Performers Theatre Company in December 2021, Performers officially opened its doors in May 2022. Since the school's inception, we have gone from strength to strength, giving our young people a range of exciting opportunities that have allowed them to thrive and shine in their own unique way. We are also offering our services to local schools in the form of after school clubs of which they have been very well received. I look forward to offering our services further afield and building strong working partnerships. I have no doubt that the school will continue to thrive as I have a hugely supportive network system around me who I am incredibly grateful for. My aim is simple - to see children and young people succeed, achieve, and grow in confidence.

Sam Gibbs
Principal
BA (Hons), PGCE, QTS

'Musical Theatre'

Acting - acting classes aim to build skills in improvisation, script work, voice technique, character building and imagination

Dance - musical theatre based focusing on movement, core stability, technique, posture, and co-ordination

'Singing'

Classes focus on breath control, strength, range as well as musical interpretation and are conducted in small groups

'Full-scale productions'

Sessions will focus on the current Performers production - production rehearsals last for up to 6 months and conclude with a show run (up to 5 days).

'Excursions'

Yearly trips to popular West End and/or professional shows take place allowing for children to come together and experience world-class performances that will inspire and motivate them.

'Master classes, workshops, half term / summer schools'

Regular master classes and workshops are conducted by industry professionals throughout the year to enhance children's performance techniques in acting, dancing, and singing. Weeklong summer schools are carried out during the summer holiday period and finish with a short well-known production. Half term schools are also offered over a 4-day period focusing on a specific theme or musical.

'After School Clubs'

Performers can extend the school day at local infant, junior and senior schools by being hired to conduct exciting classes and workshops that enhance children's performing arts skills.

'Talent Agency'

Performers can sign children and find them amateur and professional work. Jobs may include commercials, extra work, theatre, film and television or voice work among other opportunities.

'Adult classes (18+)'

Performers also offers weekday classes for adults. These sessions are 'no commitment' classes whereby you can choose to attend the sessions you want to go to. Classes allow adults to let loose, unwind, keep fit and enjoy the world of dance without judgment or worry.

Aims

At Performers Theatre Company, our aims are:

- To enhance the education and experiences of young people aged 5-18 in the performing arts
- To offer our children at least one performing opportunity throughout the academic year
- To give our young people the chance to work with industry professionals through workshops and masterclasses
- To allow children and young people to participate in activities that are within their own age group
- To always ensure that classes and workshops are exemplary and give children the very best performing arts opportunities
- To allow those who are not enrolled in Performers' classes the chance to partake in performing arts opportunities via an audition
- To build a large network of young people from across the local and wider community allowing talent, expertise, and specialisms to be shared creatively and imaginatively
- To create an exciting, engaging, and positive environment where children and young people can thrive academically, socially, and mentally

Classes

Performers' classes take place out of Park Community School in Havant on Saturdays and Deverell Hall in Waterlooville on Fridays. Other premises **may** be used for additional classes or rehearsals if required.

Currently, Performers Theatre Company comprises of **Infants, Juniors,** and **Seniors**. Infants consist of children from Years 1 and 2. Juniors consists of children from Years 3, 4, 5 and 6. Seniors consists of young people from Years 7 through to 13.

These age ranges vary for Friday classes.

Productions

The Principal oversees the choice of each formal production and its director. Casting is the responsibility of the production team which (usually) consists of the Principal, Musical Director and Choreographer(s).

All children participating in any Performers' production are expected to sell a **minimum of 5 tickets per production** and **supply their own jazz shoes**.

Attendance

Once enrolled in a Performers' class, children are expected to attend every class. If more than three consecutive weeks have elapsed without notifying the school, it will be assumed that the child has left the school and will be removed from enrolment. Formal notification of absence must not be made through another pupil or parent. It is important that if a child is unable to attend a class, Performers is contacted as soon as possible.

Please see 'Child Collection Policy' regarding the collection/pick up of children.

Behaviour

Behaviour at Performers Theatre Company should be exemplary. All children and young people have a responsibility to behave appropriately in classes, workshops, rehearsals, and productions as well as showing respect towards staff, the school values, venue, equipment, and general surroundings.

All children who enrol at Performers are expected to read and sign the *Performers' Code of Conduct*. If any young person fails to comply with the expectations set out by the Performers Theatre Company, they will be unenrolled.

Caring for our young people

Performers Theatre Company will act in 'loco parentis' towards everyone under the age of 18. This means that all staff, volunteers, and adults at Performers will undertake the responsibility and care that would be expected of 'a reasonable parent'.

At events where there are large numbers of young people in our care, a team of chaperones will be put in place. Safety is of paramount importance at any of our classes, workshops, events etc. All children and young people will be expected to act in a responsible way (in line with the Code of Conduct) and abide by all safety regulations and procedures that are in place.

Photographs and other images of our children are carefully controlled by Performers. In line with GDPR, Performers will only take photographs/videos if given consent by a parent/guardian.

All adults working at Performers are enhanced DBS checked.

Fees

Fees at Performers Theatre Company vary dependant on the class being enrolled in. Fees are paid monthly via a subscription service on ClassForKids. All classes and subscription fees can be found using the website below:

<https://performers-theatre-company.classforkids.io>

First sessions for new pupils are free trials to ensure pupils can experience Performers without committing to a monthly fee.

Production rehearsals* are invoiced differently with specific deadline dates given whereby payment must be made. If payment is not made by the deadline, a £5 late fee is applied to the invoice.

**As the production draws nearer, an intense rehearsal schedule will be put in place. We kindly ask for a £40 voluntary contribution to support the running of this rehearsal schedule and the production.*

All fees payable to Performers are non-refundable unless a class must be cancelled and no alternative can be offered.

How to join

Enrolment of a child is based on availability within classes. Class sizes vary from a minimum of 8 to a maximum of 30.

Signing your child up can only be completed via ClassForKids. If a class is full, you can request to place your child on the waiting list. Once a place becomes available, you will be contacted by Performers directly.

If you are unsure of how to use ClassForKids, you can contact us via email admin@performerstheatrecompany.com and a member of the team will be happy to assist you.

Uniform

All children at Performers Theatre Company must wear Performers' uniform when in classes, rehearsals and on trips. It is important that staff can identify children instantly for health and safety reasons.

We also have regular visitors including industry professionals and agencies, so it is vital children give off their best 'first impression'.

Any child who does not come to class wearing the appropriate uniform will be sent home as it presents a safeguarding risk.

Compulsory

Navy Blue Performers' polo shirt

Plain black/navy blue leggings, tracksuit bottoms (no logo/markings) or plain black/navy blue shorts

Plain black jazz shoes or barefoot

Plain black leotards are acceptable

Optional

Navy Performers' sweatshirt or zip-up hoodie (during winter months)

Navy Performers' shorts (during summer months)

Performers' Backpack

Performers' Water bottle