



# Revolution Performing Arts

Specialising in Nurturing, Empowerment & Expression

## Revolution Performing Arts Ltd & RPA Rapport Community Interest Company

### Covid 19 Safe Working Practices and Guidelines

This is a working document and will be regularly updated as guidance changes. RPA continually strives for improvement and always has the health and wellbeing of the young people in their care at the core of their ethos. This current update is 28<sup>th</sup> July 2020.

This document has been created using the following guidances.

- 1. Guidance for working safely in performing arts including arts organisations, venue operators and participants:**  
<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/working-safely-during-coronavirus-covid-19/performing-arts>
- 2. National Association of Youth Theatres (NAYT) guidance on starting Youth Theatres post Covid-19 lockdown:**  
[https://www.nayt.org.uk/articles/re-opening\\_youth\\_theatre\\_document](https://www.nayt.org.uk/articles/re-opening_youth_theatre_document)
- 3. Protective measures for out of school settings during the Covid-19 outbreak:**  
<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/protective-measures-for-holiday-or-after-school-clubs-and-other-out-of-school-settings-for-children-during-the-coronavirus-covid-19-outbreak/protective-measures-for-out-of-school-settings-during-the-coronavirus-covid-19-outbreak>
- 4. Advice for parents and carers attending an out of school setting:**  
<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/guidance-for-parents-and-carers-of-children-attending-out-of-school-settings-during-the-coronavirus-covid-19-outbreak/guidance-for-parents-and-carers-of-children-attending-out-of-school-settings-during-the-coronavirus-covid-19-outbreak>
- 5. Supporting young people's mental health and wellbeing**  
<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-guidance-on-supporting-children-and-young-peoples-mental-health-and-wellbeing/guidance-for-parents-and-carers-on-supporting-children-and-young-peoples-mental-health-and-wellbeing-during-the-coronavirus-covid-19-outbreak>

RPA have kept our young people going by providing online Zoom sessions (and added YouTube and WhatsApp platforms) that have proved very successful and a welcome relief for many of the young people throughout the Covid-19 pandemic. Many felt the profound effect of the arts as an outlet; a stress relief and often as a boost of confidence having such intense sessions with their RPA leader. For

many, the parents have said it has been a highlight of the young person's week. We have met pets, parents and siblings; been given tours; had amazing treasure hunts and even created virtual performances. We also provided free of charge weekly pastoral sessions to young people and separately to parents, as they too felt the strain of isolation. If this lockdown has shown us anything, it is that the arts are essential to the wellbeing of all.

We were very lucky to receive Arts Council England Covid-19 Emergency Funding which has enabled us to continue despite parents' difficult circumstances.

As you know, safeguarding has always been really important to us at RPA and during this time we have been receiving training from Sarah Turner, Independent Safeguarding Consultant, as I thought we should take the opportunity to review all our procedures and training. We have also familiarised ourselves with not only the "Guidance for safer working practice for those working with children and young people in education settings" but also the addendum (April 2020) which outlines safeguarding during Covid-19.

Procedures will vary from setting to setting, which I will update as they are received, but for now...

I know the young people are very keen to return to physical classes but equally I feel there is a nervousness in parents to keep our young people safe. As a benchmark, I approached Shaw Ridge School in Swindon, a school I have a long standing relationship with and we thought the following suggestion would work:

- Returning to physical classes after the October half term w/c 2nd November 2020, to allow parents and young people to settle into the new 'normal' and to build their confidence and reassurance with regards to safety and social distancing.
- **If parents request for RPA sessions to start sooner and school feel able and are agreeable, RPA are very keen to return earlier if requested.**
- **For out of school settings, we will send a survey to parents, asking them to let us know when their young person would like to return. Some out of school settings may be able to return in September if the setting is Covid-19 ready and parents wish for this to happen.**
- If at school, teaching our RPA session with the young people still in their class 'bubbles' but separated by 1-2 metres within the hall, so every bubble is socially distanced.
- If in an out of school setting, the young people will be placed into a 'consistent bubble' of no larger than 15 young people. We will ask each family if they have a preferred friend to be in their bubble with them. Sadly, once the bubble is created they cannot be changed to curb the spread of the virus.
- 'Consistent bubbles' are not impacted by households.
- At school, where a young person in a bubble does not have anyone else in their bubble who attends RPA, we would encourage a friend within their school class bubble to attend RPA free of charge so the young person does not feel disadvantaged.
- At school, we note which year group each young person is in, we would just need to know which class they are in so we can monitor the bubbles. There will be school assistance with this.
- Track and Trace - We have all the contact details of each family so can easily monitor any track and trace should it become necessary to contact them.
- We will prepare a risk assessment for the session to ensure all young people are kept safe and secure. This would include wiping down all equipment, toilet areas and handles before and after session and having plenty of hand sanitiser available to encourage hand washing. Risk assessments will be available on the RPA website as they are completed.
- This is all based on the proviso that there is no second wave, the 'R' remains low and government guidance remains the same and does not add further restrictions.
- The current government guidance does not allow singing as it increases the projection of vapour droplets therefore we would just provide dancing and drama until further restrictions are eased as government guidance allows.

- For any parents who feel nervous or unsure about returning to physical class or for young people who are self isolating or at higher risk or for young people who wish to sing only, then we will continue to provide additional virtual classes.
- We would ask that young people to session with as few personal possessions as possible. Preferably just a named water bottle. I would encourage parents to speak to their young people about not sharing water bottles.
- We will be using the teaching side by side method (as opposed to face to face) to reduce the spread of the virus.

In an emergency (accident, first aid, fire), young people will not be required to be socially distanced as this would be deemed unsafe.

It goes without saying that if you or your young person has Covid-19 symptoms of a new continuous cough, high temperature or a recent in sense of smell or taste, please do not attend the session. If they have new symptoms and have attended the session then please let RPA know straight away so we can implement our track and trace system. If they have these symptoms in session, they will be sent home immediately and will be asked to seek a test from NHS 119.

We will keep all enrolment details to enable track and trace. Please ensure we have your up to date mobile number and email address.

For RPA Rapport, we will discourage travel within buildings. There will be a staggered start and end time. Leaders will use phones if needing assistance from another member of the leadership team.

RPA guidance regarding performances will be issued at a later date when preparation for performance is nearing.

All RPA leaders meetings will remain online to maintain social distancing.

All RPA leaders are trained in first aid, safeguarding, Covid-19 practices, are DBS checked and RPA has a full and comprehensive safeguarding and child protection policy and procedures.

We know these guidelines seem very firm but ultimately it is our responsible to keep families, young people and leaders safe. Please know that the above has been created with the utmost respect and care for all who come to RPA and RPA Rapport.

If you have any questions regarding the above, or think something should be added or considered, please email the office at [office@revolutionpa.co.uk](mailto:office@revolutionpa.co.uk).

With love, compassion and respect.

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of a stylized 'J.' followed by a diagonal slash and the letters 'Kox'.

Founder and Director

Revolution Performing Arts