



Scottish Community Drama Association

SCDA Guidelines for Chaperones

Verb: chaperone – to accompany, look after, safeguard or supervise

A Chaperone: -

- is acting in loco parentis and should exercise the care which a good parent might reasonably be expected to give that child;
- must always remain vigilant so that they can intervene if the child is becoming tired, hungry or in need of a break;
- must protect children from vulnerable situations, including being exposed to adult content;
- must put the needs of the child over the needs of the production, and challenge people and/or behaviour that they are concerned about and know to whom any concerns should be escalated;
- should be familiar with the policies of the club in respect of Child Protection and work closely with the Lead Officer of the club if any concerns arise;
- ensure children are not left alone with other adults (unless it's their parent or teacher).

Who can carry out the duties of a Chaperone?

- Any adult is eligible to become a Chaperone.
- The role of 'Chaperone' is regulated work in Scotland and **all** chaperones who are supervising children who are not their own must have a PVG scheme record.
- An adult may not chaperone other children in addition to their own child.

How many children can a person chaperone?

- In line with the SCDA festival risk assessment, we recommend that the number of children an individual can chaperone should not any time exceed 10.

Does a Chaperone have to be registered with the Local Authority?

- This is not required for amateur theatre as it is not paid employment of the child or the chaperone.

The NSPCC provides advice and guidance about keeping children safe in the performing arts at: www.nspcc.org.uk/performingarts

They also have an online training course which can be found here

<https://learning.nspcc.org.uk/training/introductory/protecting-children-in-entertainment-a-course-for-chaperones-online-course/>