



KYDZ – Keighley's Youth Theatre
Oakworth Methodist Church, Lidget, Oakworth, BD22 7HN
Registered Charity Number 701626

Introduction to KYDZ & Behaviour Policy

Introduction

KYDZ has a history of doing things differently. Our Ethos is:

KYDZ is a place where members are safe to be 'whatever they want' – to express themselves, to take risks in drama, to always receive support – so long as their behaviour is acceptable and they don't hurt other people.

We value our members' individuality but encourage them to work as a team.

We are proud that we will accept any child into KYDZ. We appreciate talent but we're more interested in attitude and commitment. Our members are very accepting and supportive.

We demand great dedication from our young people - we expect them to do their best, whatever their ability, and we do our best to support them.

Information for Parents

The Basics

Membership is from age nine up.

We usually meet at Oakworth Methodist Church on Thursdays from 7pm to 9pm. There are extra rehearsals as we get nearer shows -- usually Sunday early evenings. Dress rehearsals must be attended.

We generally perform two major shows a year, in March/April and July, plus an autumn concert. When we assign roles in shows we take into account effort, attendance and punctuality as well as acting ability.

Subs are currently £7 a month (£11 for two or more siblings). We prefer to receive money by direct debit. We invite parents to sign up for gift aid.

We are a charity, we don't get grants, we are all volunteers, and our subs and ticket sales do not always cover the cost of shows and running costs. We rely on members and their families to help with fundraising, selling tickets and during show weeks.

Suitable footwear and clothing should be worn at rehearsals. Members wear KYDZ t-shirts for concerts or special events - we ask parents for £7.50 towards the cost. Hoodies are optionally available priced between £10 and £13.

Our policies for child protection, uniform, subs and behaviour, and constitution, are available on request or on our website at www.kydztheatre.co.uk/documents.

Attendance

Members should arrive at our sessions on time.

Members must always attend Thursdays unless there is a good reason - specifically family holidays, school events, exams, work and illness. We generally need to know the reason a child is absent. Routine school work should be done at other times, and it's fine to come with a cold!

It's usually fine to be absent for important family events, special outings or performing in other shows -- so long as we know about it, it's not too near our shows, and it's not too often. Members are expected to sacrifice other activities as we get nearer shows.

We expect members to come all year round because group cohesion is more important to us than simply putting on shows. As a result, if a member has a second regular commitment on a Thursday (such as rehearsals for another group) they will be asked to choose between that and membership of KYDZ. However, we do give extended leave for GCSEs and A-levels if needed – if this is the case permission from the Artistic Director must be given.

Our most important rule is TELL US. Please inform us about holiday dates, exams, family events, day trips, illnesses, etc., as soon as possible, and anything else that could affect attendance, health, welfare or behaviour. **We will try to work round other important commitments or personal issues, but only if we know.**

(Please text David direct on **07768 964110**
-- don't rely on another child passing on a message!)

Communication

We send information to parents via printed newsletters and email, and shorter messages by text.

We have both public and private Facebook pages. Membership of which is open to members, leaders and parents.

Text or Facebook messages between individual members and leaders are NEVER private. If we have to contact a member individually, our Child Protection Officer is notified. Similarly, if a member messages a leader, the Child Protection Officer will be told.

Please read the following section to your child and ensure they understand it.

Information for Acting Members

What we expect from Members

- Take part and try your best!
- Express yourself, be what you want to be – but always behave and respect others.
- You are allowed to make mistakes!
- No negative comments – no name calling.
- We value individual talent, but remember you are part of a team.
- Silence when the session/rehearsal leader is speaking. Focus on the session, do not talk among yourselves.
- Best and Worst is an important start to Thursdays. Focus on the person talking, don't talk among yourselves.
- Look after your scripts! You will be charged for replacements!
- Wear suitable footwear and appropriate clothing.

Attendance

- Attend all rehearsals unless you really can't help it.
- Arrive ready to start at 7pm, not a few minutes afterwards.
- Your parents must tell us as soon as possible if you cannot attend.

Strike System

Introduction

KYDZ – Keighley's Youth Theatre expects its Acting Members to conduct themselves in an appropriate manner at all times. Acting Members **must** follow the instructions of the Leadership Team, Production Team (or their delegated assistants) and registered Chaperones.

The Leadership Team and Production Team all have delegated authority to manage behaviour within KYDZ at all times. During and leading up to performances, this also extends to the registered Chaperones.

This policy sets out clearly what action will be taken if an Acting Member does not follow reasonable instructions.

KYDZ – Keighley's Youth Theatre believes that good behaviour is a key part to enjoyment at KYDZ. Like many other organisations, we have a "strike" system in place to manage behaviour. Thankfully, we rarely have to use it, but the following pages set out how it is managed, and how we will keep you informed if a strike is issued.

A "strike" is a formal way for KYDZ to deal with serious or dangerous misbehaviour.

Strike System

KYDZ operate the following system to manage behaviour amongst all Acting Members. The basis of the system is;

1. A Strike is only ever given to a child as a **last resort**.
2. **Three** verbal warnings will be given to the child before a Strike is issued.
3. A Strike will only ever be issued for serious or dangerous misbehaviour, far above minor things such as "talking too much" etc.
4. The **Director Team** reserve the right to issue a Strike to an Acting Member without verbal warning if the act of misbehaviour is deemed likely to have put the safety of KYDZ Members or assets at risk.
5. Only one Strike can be issued per meeting.
6. KYDZ Leadership and Production staff are authorised to issue Strikes – during or approaching shows, this also includes Chaperones.
7. When a Strike is issued, a letter will be sent to the registered home address of the Acting Member in question, explaining who issued the Strike and why. The letter will also contain a copy of this Policy and will be copied electronically to the Parent/Guardian's registered email address(es).
8. Strikes will be held centrally on record by the Secretary for a period of 12 months after which they will be removed.
9. If an Acting Member receives three Strikes within 12 months, their Acting Membership will be terminated.

ENDS

David Knights
Artistic Director

Rob Green
Safety, Compliance & Admin Director

Matthew Stewart
Child Protection Officer

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