

## APPENDIX Q: HEALTH & SAFETY

### HEALTH & SAFETY STATEMENT

The National Centre for Circus Arts accepts its responsibilities under the Health and Safety at Work Act 1974 and the management of Health and Safety at work regulations 1999. The National Centre for Circus Arts ensures that it introduces reasonably practicable measure to protect the safety of employees, users, performers and others affected by the activities at the National Centre.

As an employer in a unique environment, we must also extend the definition of reasonably practicable to protect and promote the interests of the artistic performer. The appeal of the circus performer often lies in the illusion of risk, and while training safety protocols may be reduced or absent for rehearsals or performance, this will only be done with the consent of the teacher(s) involved and the YM when it has been agreed by all that the performer is capable of working safely at that level. This process shall be assessed on a case by case basis and shall follow any agreed guidelines regarding progressive training and/or the development of the performer. Each performer, guided by their teacher(s) and/or YM, must be aware of this safety issue and accept the risks associated with their individual performance.

All students are expected to comply with health and safety regulations and to apply the knowledge gained from health and safety topics covered in their course modules, together with their awareness of safe practice, which is inherent in their professional circus training.

Students who fail to accept or act upon reasonable standards set to ensure their own health and safety and that of others and to maintain the safety of the working environment may be subject to disciplinary action.

You should report any matters relating to health and safety to the Head of HE Circus Delivery or any other appropriate member of staff.

#### **Babies, Children and Young People at the National Centre for Circus Arts**

Please note that other than children or young people attending classes on our youth programme, or other designated activity, babies, children and young people under the age of fourteen may not enter the training spaces at any time other than for ticketed performances. Children under the age of fourteen must be supervised by an adult at all times. They may wait for a parent who is taking or teaching a class in reception with a parent or carer. Young people aged fourteen or over may wait for their parents in reception unsupervised but must behave appropriately as the reception area is the office space for the customer services team. If unacceptable behaviour is noted the parent will be located and asked to leave their class. The young person may be asked to leave and could be banned from waiting unaccompanied in the future. Staff may require proof of age if they are in any doubt about a young person waiting in reception alone. This policy is to ensure the safety of children and young people in our building as well as the safety of class participants who may be distracted during a class or practise session.

#### **No Smoking Policy**

The whole of the National Centre for Circus Arts site is designated as non-smoking. This includes the courtyard, which is also a smoke free zone.