

CHAPERONING FAQ'S

(Without chaperones there is no show, so your help is very much appreciated!)

Frequently Asked Questions

Why do you need Chaperones?

To run the show, for safety and legal reasons, we must have an adult-to-child ratio that forms part of our production license from the local council. If these ratios are not met (and we are subject to spot checks) we would be in breach of our license and would not be able to put on the show.

Why don't you pay for professional chaperones?

Simply put, we can't afford it – the average hourly rate of a professional chaperone is £120/hour and if we had to pay for the numbers of chaperones needed the show would not be viable or the show fee would be much higher.

What does Chaperoning entail?

There are many roles backstage, but what we require most from parents is support in dressing rooms:

- Making sure children are signed in / out of the dressing room so we know where they are at all times
- Any medication a child needs (such as EpiPens and inhalers) are handed in and returned to the child.
- Ensuring outfits are in the correct place and children are in them at the correct times.
- Ensuring children are ready in plenty of time for their call to stage.
- Making sure outfits and all accessories are returned to the hangars and rails at the end of the show.
- Ensuring outfits that are needed in Quick Change are ready and with the quick-change team before show start.
- Ensuring that excitement levels don't reach fever pitch and noise levels are contained (as they can be heard in the auditorium!).
- Supporting and encouraging children when nerves appear.
- Having fun, enjoying the backstage buzz and being a part of the extended LDA family.

Can I pop out to watch my child in the show whilst chaperoning?

Unfortunately, no. If you are chaperoning, you are not just chaperoning your own child, you are supporting the entire dressing room and helping us to meet our license ratios, and we can't allow parents to leave even for 10 mins.

Please only volunteer for sessions that you **haven't** purchased tickets to watch.

Can I be in my child's dressing room?

Yes, where possible we will endeavor to ensure that you are with your child in their dressing room, however there are sometimes unexpected events that may mean we have to do a last-minute swap around and we do ask that you are supportive of this.

Do I have to be in my child's dressing room?

Not at all, if you or your child would prefer you were not together, that is equally as helpful as we can put you to good use elsewhere.

Can I bring my other children with me?

No, we can't bring additional children backstage at the theatre as we must ensure all those backstage are on our license and accounted for in our ratios. Sorry.

How long do I need to Chaperone for?

As little as 1 half of a show or rehearsal to any number of full rehearsal or show performances up to the 8 (total) in the schedule, we will be extremely grateful for any or all slots you can support, as we need approximately 50 chaperones / show.

Can I swap or change my chaperone session?

We would really appreciate it if you didn't. As you can probably imagine, the chaperone schedule is a mammoth operation, whilst we will do our utmost to accommodate last minute changes for emergencies, please try to stick to your slot, you will be sent confirmation emails, please check these and notify us of any changes as soon as possible as these also need to be reflected in our show license.

Do I need a Chaperone license / DBS or other qualification?

No, but if you are willing to obtain a Chaperone license, these are free for volunteer roles, they just require a safeguarding course and interview with the licensing authority.

If you have a DBS, safeguarding or first aid certificate we will certainly be pleased to know as we can also use you in other roles backstage if you would prefer.

Can a chaperone or staff member take my child to the theatre for me?

No, a staff member cannot be responsible for organizing any form of transport of a child to the show, if a friend happens to be a chaperone and offers to share lifts to the theatre, this is a personal arrangement between families and is fine.

Will I be given training?

You will be given a briefing at the start of each session, this will be a safety briefing and a role overview for the role you have been allocated if not a dressing room, by our stage manager.

We also have a number of very supportive and long-standing parents who over the years have gained an incredible amount of experience backstage and we hope will be on hand to support and guide newer chaperones again this year.

Is it hard work?

We would be lying if we said it was an easy job, it's hectic, it's frantic but feedback from our chaperones is, it's a really enjoyable place to be and you get to see all the hard work that goes into a production that is a truly memorable experience for everyone involved.