

School Performances

Schools, (but not dance schools), are exempt from needing to have licences, except where your child may be involved in commercial work outside normal school activities.

Six Month Modelling or 'Open' Licences

West Berkshire Council does not issue six month or open licences, however, if your child is registered with us to undertake modelling assignments we can set up a file to enable us to issue licences promptly for each application made.

Chaperones

All licensed shows must have authorised chaperones. The chaperone is in loco parentis i.e. acts in place of a parent and must have the welfare of the children s/he is chaperoning as her/his first priority. Their names have to be stated on the application form and we always check that they are currently authorised. Parents can chaperone their own children but they must have a valid chaperones licence if they wish to chaperone other people's children.

Education Welfare license chaperones that live in the West Berkshire area. We would always urge you to check who is chaperoning your child, and whether s/he has a valid licence. If you have any doubts, check with us.

Child Protection

All chaperones who are licensed by this Authority receive Child Protection guidelines on who to contact with any worries or concerns. Equally, any person who is concerned about a chaperone should contact the Education Welfare Team.

West Berkshire Council has a duty to inspect places where children are performing to check that they are suitable and that the children are being looked after appropriately. If the performance is outside the West Berkshire area, the local Education Welfare Service for the area where the performance is taking place will make the inspection. Whilst we cannot visit every venue, we do make random calls.

Further information

To find out more contact us using the details below

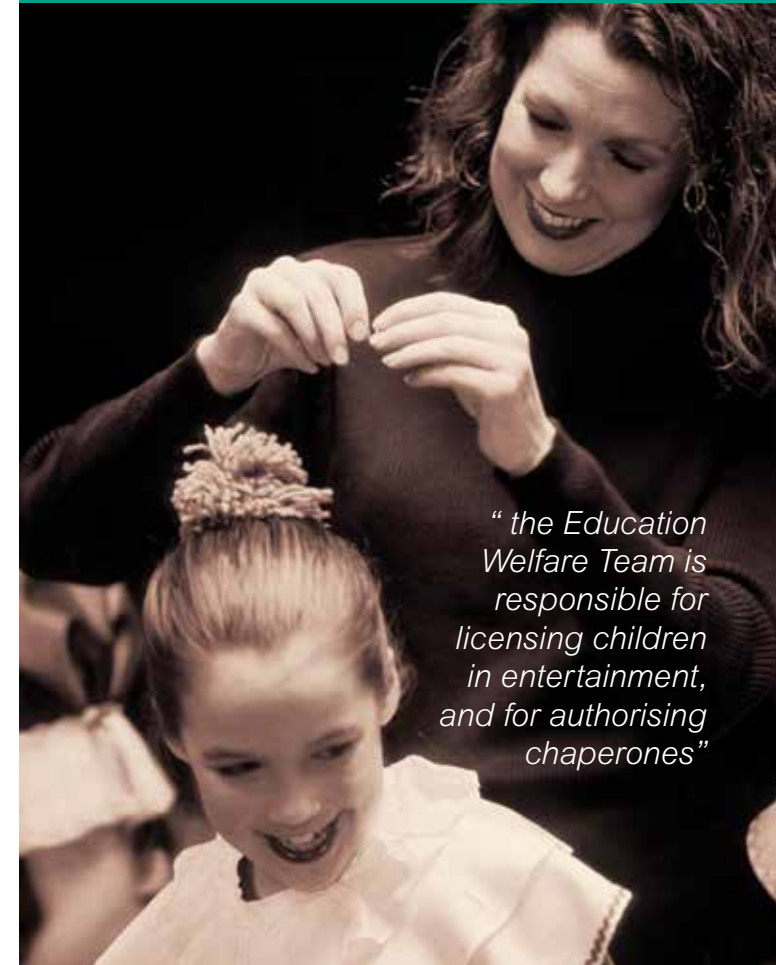
We are committed to being accessible to everyone. If you require this document in an alternative format or translation, please call the Education Welfare and Safeguarding Service, on 01635 551111.

West Berkshire Council
Education Welfare and Safeguarding Service,
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Berkshire, RG14 5LD

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Children in Entertainment

A guide for parents



" the Education Welfare Team is responsible for licensing children in entertainment, and for authorising chaperones"

Many children enjoy performing, whether in plays, films, advertising or on television and parents enjoy supporting them. However, laws exist which are designed to protect children's welfare and prevent them from being exploited, In particular, the Children & Young Persons Act 1963 and the Children (Performances) Regulations 1968.

In West Berkshire, the Education Welfare Team is responsible for licensing children in entertainment, and for authorising chaperones. If you need any further information, and/or wish to apply to be a chaperone, please contact Education Welfare.



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Does my child need a licence?

All children under the statutory school leaving age, even babies, need a licence. There are a few exemptions:

1. Your child can perform for four days in any one year, if:
 - S/he has not performed at all in the previous six months and
 - S/he will not miss any school
2. The Scouts' Annual 'Gang Show' has been granted a national exemption, and other charities can also apply to us for exemption.

The absence from school rule always applies, so, if your child will miss school for rehearsals and/or performances, s/he must have a licence.

How do I apply for a licence?

If your child is involved with a dancing school and/or a local show, the producer or secretary should apply to us for application forms. S/he fills in the first part of the form and then passes it to you to complete the second part.

If your child is registered with an agent, you need to check whether your agent or the production/TV/film company is applying for the licence. Even if your child is performing outside West Berkshire district, if you live within the West Berkshire district area, the licence has to be authorised by the Council's Education Welfare Team.

Once you have filled in your part of the application, you need to give it back to the appropriate person, together with two photographs and a copy of your child's birth certificate. You may also need to provide a medical certificate from your child's doctor and a letter from your child's school if s/he will be absent from school. The form is then sent to the Council for authorisation.

Is there a time limit?

Your child needs to have their licence before the performance takes place, therefore, we ask for the licence to be sent to us at least three weeks before the show starts. We always try our best to issue a licence but, sometimes, if the application is very late, we may not be able to authorise your child's performance. Your child does not need a licence once s/he is over the official school-leaving age, i.e. after the last Friday in June of the school year in which your child is 16 (year 11).

The Licence

If approved, the licence is sent to the person whose name is on the front of the form. A copy will be sent to you. If the performance involves absence from school, a copy of the licence is also sent to your child's school. If your child is performing outside the West Berkshire District area, a copy of the licence is also sent to the appropriate Local Authority.