

Wondrous Stories Online Safeguarding Policy and Procedures

The purpose of this policy:

Wondrous Stories 'Share Your Story' is a digital platform created by Motionhouse in the context of the creation of our upcoming large-scale outdoor production Wondrous Stories, the opening show of the Birmingham 2022 Festival. We're inviting people from across the region to share their story to form a snapshot of life in the area as Birmingham and the West Midlands become the focus of international attention through the Commonwealth Games.

The purpose of this policy is to:

- Provide a project overview and rationale behind the platform;
- Inform users on actions we have taken to ensure the safeguarding and wellbeing of young people using the platform, which is paramount;
- Provide relevant staff with the necessary information on the principles that guide our approach to online safety on the platform;
- Ensure that, as an organisation, we operate in line with our values, within the law and in accordance with our company Safeguarding Children and Vulnerable Adults Policy and Internet Acceptable Use Policy in terms of how we use the Wondrous Stories platform and how we upload digital content.

This policy applies to all staff, dancers, young people and anyone else involved in the Wondrous Stories 'Share Your Story' project conducted by Motionhouse.

What is the Wondrous Stories platform?

The Wondrous Stories 'Share Your Story' campaign and platform has been developed to give people from across Birmingham and the West Midlands the opportunity to tell their own story in the lead up to the large-scale production by Motionhouse that will open the Birmingham 2022 Festival.

From 17-20 March 2022, we will transform Birmingham's Centenary Square into the stage for Wondrous Stories, a spectacular large-scale show which will open the Birmingham 2022 Festival. Audiences will be able to attend seven free performances of this incredible event.

Centenary Square, home to the Library of Birmingham, Birmingham Repertory Theatre and the Hall of Memory, is a space built among buildings that house, tell or keep stories, and Wondrous Stories is inspired by this. The show is about stories past, present, and future.

We're inviting people from across the region to share their story to form a snapshot of life in the area as Birmingham and the West Midlands become the focus of international attention through the Commonwealth Games.

We all have a story to tell, and in the lead up to Wondrous Stories we want to hear the stories of people across Birmingham and the West Midlands.

Stories can be whatever you want to share – stories of everyday life, what Birmingham and the region mean to you, or just stories about what is important to you in your life. You can choose how you want to tell us: write it down, paint a picture, make a video – it could be anything!

When you share your story, please do not include any personal information that might identify you. Don't include your name and address, or any other information you would not like to be shared publicly. If you share videos and images, please only share what you are happy to go public with.

Motionhouse and other partners on the show may share your story on social media channels, or in a blog. Stories might even be included in the show!

We will use the following process to curate the content and safeguard young or vulnerable people, and people who submit content:

- Review and curate the content submitted to the Wondrous Stories platform prior to it being made visible on the platform to ensure that all content on the platform is appropriate to the project and its audience;
- Provide Wondrous Stories platform guidelines for platform users (including families, young people and their parents or carers, schools and members of the public) to understand what they can upload and expect from the platform;
- Keep all content on the Wondrous Stories platform anonymous, with no name or personal information being displayed on the uploaded content;
- Ensure that the content uploaded is used only after permission has been obtained, through a compulsory 'Consent' tick box, and only for the purpose for which consent has been given;
- Ensure that young or vulnerable people in particular know who to go to for help and reporting concerns in the context of Wondrous Stories should the need occur;
- Develop a clear and robust procedure outlined below to enable us to respond appropriately to any incidents of inappropriate content being uploaded to the Wondrous Stories, whether by a young person or an adult;

- Ensure all staff working on the Wondrous Stories platform (Communications and Development Director, Audience Development Manager and Digital Content Officer) have completed the NSPCC – Keeping Children Safe Online e-training;
- Signpost NSPCC, Childline, and CEOP helplines and report pages on our platform.

In the unlikely event of receiving inappropriate content, we will:

- Follow our Safeguarding Children and Vulnerable Adults Policy and Procedure;
- If necessary, report the content to the relevant authorities – e.g. NSPCC Helpline, local child protection services, CEOP, child services or the police;
- Ensure young people feel supported by Motionhouse if they are attempting to reach out for help through the Wondrous Steories platform;
- Ensure our response takes into account the needs of the person who has sent the content;
- Provide the possibility of removing content from the Wondrous Stories platform, should someone request it.

We recognise that:

- While the Wondrous Stories platform provides an opportunity for young people and people of all ages to celebrate their own story, it could, in rare cases, also be a conduit for them to submit content relating to personal issues. Should this occur we will implement the measures laid out in our Safeguarding policy, namely alerting the relevant authorities;
- We have a duty of care to ensure all young people and adults involved in the Wondrous Stories platform and project are not exposed to potential harm whilst using the platform;
- We have a responsibility to help keep children and young people safe online, when they are using the Wondrous Stories platform or Motionhouse’s social media channels;
- All young people, regardless of age, ability, gender, race, religion or belief, sexual orientation, have the right to use the platform and an equal right to protection from all types of harm or abuse;
- Working in partnership with young people, their parents, carers and other agencies where necessary is essential in promoting young people’s welfare and in helping young people to be responsible in their approach to online safety.

Related policies and procedures:

The policy should be read alongside our organisational policies and procedures, including:

- Motionhouse Safeguarding Children and Vulnerable Adults Policy and Procedure
- Motionhouse Internet Acceptable Use Policy
- Motionhouse Data Protection Policy

Contact details:

NSPCC Helpline: 0800 800 500

NSPCC email: help@nspcc.org.uk

Childline Helpline: 0800 1111

Childline Get Support: <https://www.childline.org.uk/get-support/>

CEOP Safety Centre: <https://www.ceop.police.uk/safety-centre/>

Communications and Development Director: Jane Bailey, Jane@motionhouse.co.uk

Digital Content Officer: Ellen Dainty: Ellen@motionhouse.co.uk

Motionhouse Contact Number: 01926 887052