Factory of creativity CIO
Hope Mill Theatre
113 Pollard Street
Manchester
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Safe Contact Guidelines Policy

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Policy owner:	HMTA Head of Programme
Lead contact:	Head of Programme
Audience:	HMTA Staff, Applicants and Students,
Approving body:	Board of Trustees
Date approved:	August 2026
Policy implementation date:	August 2026
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Related Policies, Procedures and Guidance:	Learning Culture & Codes of Practice Harassment & Sexual Misconduct Policy E6: Single source of information Safeguarding Policy
Equality & Diversity Considerations:	Policy should be available in accessible format for all students
Further Information:	

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Safe Contact Guidelines

The Safe Contact Guidelines set out clear expectations around physical contact between staff and students, and between students themselves, to ensure everyone feels safe and respected.

Teaching performing arts is a physical activity and **appropriate physical contact** between students and tutor and peer to peer in class can be useful at certain points in training as a means of deepening **physical understanding** through sensory input.

Sometimes touch is used to **illustrate a concept** to a student or adjust body parts in support of learning. Tutors or peers may also sometimes demonstrate with students in ways that involve supporting a student/s' weight and/or lifting them from the ground.

HMTA and FoC recognises that such physical contact is a potentially **complex area;** and the School also fully recognises its responsibilities for **safeguarding** students and teachers, and for protecting their welfare.

HMTA brings together people from **diverse cultural** and social backgrounds and attitudes to touch, and personal space may differ.

The following guidelines are in place to ensure the best access and engagement with learning:

- All contact will be **consensual** between tutors and students, and/or between student peers.
- Allow time, show patience, and respect **individual boundaries.**
- Contact by the tutors is made with awareness of the needs of each individual.
- Students are entitled to express that they are not willing to receive touch. **Personal Support Plans** can be developed to clearly communicate student's preferences in relation to touch in liaison with the Head of Programme and Head of Wellbeing.
- An individual can at any time **withdraw their consent** for touch but must clearly **communicate** this with staff and/or peers.
- All tutors will treat any physical contact with due **sensitivity and care** and will emphasise the same in peer-to-peer tasks which involve contact.
- Contact will not involve unnecessary force in any circumstances.
- Tutors will be mindful of **location** and avoid situations where they are isolated with a student. 1-2-1 tutorials should use a public space in the building where possible, or office/meeting room with the door open/window as appropriate.
- Tutors may note discomfort with a students' **attire** for class, if they feel it precludes working safely and effectively with contact.
- Tutors and students should feel free to report any concerns to any member of staff they feel comfortable.
- HMTA will **consult** with students to ensure this policy remains appropriate and relevant.