



GADS Youth Theatre Constitution

1. Name

The name of the group shall be:

GADS Youth Theatre

A youth section of Gosforth Amateur Dramatic Society (GADS).

2. Purpose

The purpose of GADS Youth Theatre is:

- To provide a safe, inclusive and supportive environment for young people to explore theatre and performance.
- To develop skills in acting, singing, dancing, technical theatre and backstage production.
- To build confidence, teamwork, leadership and creativity.
- To nurture the next generation of performers, technicians and leaders within GADS.

3. Aims and Objectives

The Youth Theatre will:

- Deliver regular workshops and rehearsals.
- Stage productions, showcases or performances.
- Provide opportunities both on stage and behind the scenes.
- Encourage leadership development among older members.
- Promote inclusion, equality and respect.
- Operate in line with GADS safeguarding policies.

4. Membership

Eligibility:

- Membership is open to young people aged 8 to 18 years.
- Membership may be limited by available spaces.

Membership Requirements:

- Completion of a membership form and payment of annual subscription to become a member of GADS.
- Completion of a registration form (Gosforth Amateur Dramatic Society Child Protection Procedures - Appendix 2)
- Completion of a Medical/SEND Need Additional Information form where appropriate.
- Payment of agreed subscription fees (if applicable).
- Agreement to follow the GADS Code of Conduct and Behaviour Policy.

Termination of Membership:

- Membership may be withdrawn following consultation with parents/guardians and GADS committee where appropriate if behaviour is consistently inappropriate, unsafe, or in breach of safeguarding policies

5. Leadership and Management

GADS Youth Theatre will be led by:

- A Youth Theatre Leader
- Supporting leaders/volunteers as required

Leaders are responsible for:

- Planning and delivering sessions.
- Ensuring safeguarding procedures are followed.
- Risk assessments for rehearsals and performances.
- Communication with parents/guardians.
- Liaison with the main GADS committee.

All leaders and volunteers working directly with young people must:

- Have appropriate safeguarding training.
- Hold an up-to-date DBS check where required.
- Follow GADS safeguarding and child protection policies.

6. Safeguarding

The Youth Theatre adopts and operates under the safeguarding policy of Gosforth Amateur Dramatic Society.

- The welfare of the child is paramount.
- All concerns will be reported to the designated safeguarding lead.
- Appropriate supervision ratios will be maintained.
- No unauthorised photography or filming is permitted.

7. Code of Conduct

Members are expected to adhere to the GADS Behaviour Policy and Code of Conduct.

In addition, we have the following expectations of Youth Theatre members:

- Treat others with respect and kindness.
- Follow instructions from leaders.
- Attend rehearsals regularly and on time.
- Commit to productions once cast.
- Take responsibility for costumes, scripts and props.

Bullying, discrimination or unsafe behaviour will not be tolerated.

8. Meetings

- Regular sessions will take place on an agreed day and time.
- Additional rehearsals may be scheduled before performances.
- Parents/guardians will be informed of performance dates in advance.

9. Finance

- Subscription fees will be agreed annually by the GADS Executive Committee. By enrolling their child in GADS Youth Theatre, parents/guardians are accepting their obligation to pay the agreed subscription fee each term.
- Certain activities may require additional contributions, which will be communicated clearly.
- All finances will be managed in line with GADS financial procedures.

10. Health and Safety

The Youth Theatre will:

- Conduct risk assessments for rehearsals and performances.
- Ensure safe use of props, costumes, lighting and staging.
- Maintain clear emergency procedures.
- Inform members of fire and evacuation procedures at venues.

11. Equality and Inclusion

GADS Youth Theatre will operate in line with the GADS Equal Opportunities Policy and is committed to:

- Equal opportunities for all.
- Providing an inclusive environment.
- Making reasonable adjustments where possible to support participation.

We at GADS will do our best to accommodate any child with additional needs (including medical conditions) and will undertake the necessary risk assessments, where appropriate, to ensure the safety of all participants.

However, there may be circumstances where, due to the nature of our activities and the resources available, we are unable to provide the level of support required and if a child's physical or behavioural needs pose a safety risk to themselves and/or others AND reasonable adjustments cannot be made, GADS reserves the right to decline admission to any activity as deemed necessary. This decision would only be made after careful consideration and discussion with parents/carers.

12. Amendments to the Constitution

This constitution may be amended by agreement of The GADS Executive Committee.

Amendments must continue to align with the aims and values of Gosforth Amateur Dramatic Society.

13. Dissolution

If GADS Youth Theatre is dissolved:

- Any remaining funds or assets will revert to Gosforth Amateur Dramatic Society.
- Parents/guardians will be notified in writing and subscription payments will be refunded in full or part where appropriate.

Adoption

Adopted On:

Date: _____

Signed (Youth Theatre Leader): _____

Signed (GADS Chair): _____