

Children in Entertainment, the Law and Your dance school

As detailed in the Children and Young Person Act 1933 & 1963, the Children (Performance and Activities) (England) Regulations 2014 and the 2014 consultation document on child performance hours and breaks.

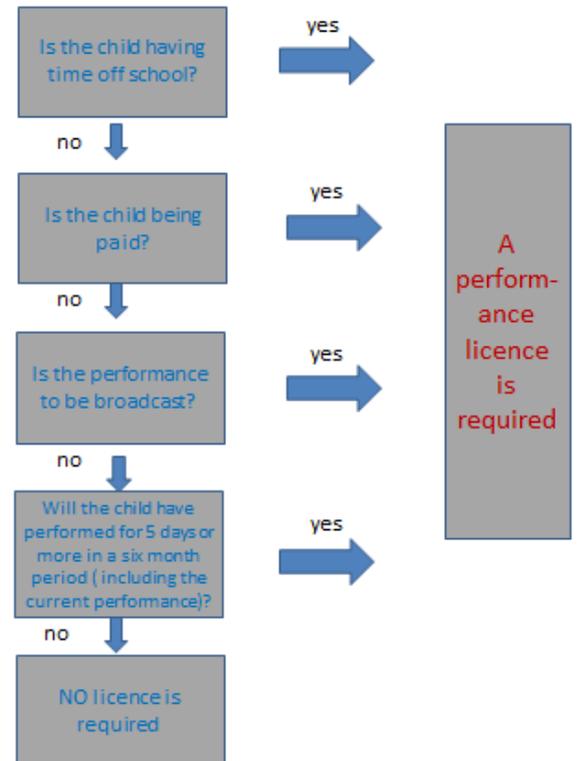
The law applies to any child up to the end of compulsory education (the last Friday in June during the school year where the child turns 16).

Performance licences are needed where:

- A charge is made
- At licenced premises
- Where the performance is made with a view to broadcast or exhibition
- Where the child is paid
- And for children in entertainment for example film, television or theatre work.

Licences are usually not needed:

- For children who do not perform more than 4 days in a 6 month period
- Where children are not absent from school
- Where the performance is made with an approved BOPA
- Where no payment is made to the child or another on their behalf
- The performance is a school performance (at a school where the child undertakes their main education)
- When the local authority does not consider the event a performance.



If you believe, in all reasonableness, that your performers will be exempt from requiring performance licences you must still make your Local Authority aware of your performance to seek an exemption. This is usually done through the Education Welfare team who are the same team who provide Performance licences and Chaperone licences.

There are 2 types of application that may need to be made for a performance: The individual responsible for making the application is the individual with overall responsibility for the production (or the staff member to whom they have delegated this responsibility). Both applications need to be made at least 21 days prior to the performance taking place. If unsure please consult your Local Authority.

Performance licence: this is a licence that is attributed to a specific child for a specific piece of work. If a child needs a performance licence they will also need (if not supported by their parent/ guardian) a **licenced chaperone**. Application for a performance licence must be made to the Local Authority where the child is resident.

Body of Persons Application: This is what we make if we if we do not believe our students fall under the definition of 'child performer' requiring a licence. This is an application that is allocated to our organisation for a specific performance. It must be sought from the Local Authority where the performance is due to take place. There is no requirement with a BOPA for licenced chaperones to be provided but Children must still be safeguarded appropriately.

In both instances it is up to the Local Authority to decide whether to approve the request. They will request additional information form you such as medical questionnaires, information on the nature of performance and risk assessment to support their decision. They may place conditions on any approval granted. This will include guidance on how long a child may remain in a theatre environment and these guidelines must be followed.

Where chaperones are required: They must be suitable and competent to discharge their duty and can only be appointed with an enhanced DBS check, references and an interview. Most local authorities provide training for chaperones.

It is essential good practice for all performances to keep appropriate records , to ensure all children are appropriately safeguarded and to abide by safeguarding policy, procedure and law.