BENCH POLICY:
- YOUNG ADULTS AGED OVER 16 AND UNDER 18
- CHILDREN AGED UNDER 16

General policy points

- Bench Theatre is a company run for and by adults. Its productions and club nights are designed with an adult population in mind.

- In order to be a member of Bench Theatre, an individual needs to be 16 years old or over.

- 16 or 17 year old members are defined in Child Protection legislation as 'children'. In order to be a member of Bench Theatre one of their Parents or a recognised guardian must sign the supplementary membership form to agree to the specific term and conditions.

- Any members aged under 18 who are involved in, or present at, Bench Theatre productions and/or Club Nights must adhere to age specific legislation when involved in a Bench activity (for example, they are not allowed to buy alcohol).

- Any members aged over 18 must not infringe the law relating to under 18s (for example, they must not buy alcohol for under 18s)

Special policy points on children aged under 16

- Exceptionally, under 16s may be cast for a specific Production if justified by artistic requirement, and only if:
  - a risk assessment has been undertaken by the Producer of the production;
  - terms and conditions of the arrangement have been agreed with Parents or recognised guardians;
  - current legislation for performers aged under 16 is met (such as appropriate dedicated chaperones, suitable changing arrangements, limits on number of performances); and
  - the Executive Committee has approved the arrangement.

- Other than the exceptional arrangement described above, under 16s are not permitted to participate in Bench activities and may not attend Club Nights, Auditions, Rehearsals, Get-Ins, Get-outs, etc or have access to non-public areas during Performances etc.

- In general the children of Bench members should not be present at Bench activities, except for brief periods when they are fully under the supervision of a Parent/guardian. Bench Theatre reserves the right to exclude children from some or all of its activities.