

Keeping young performers safe

Guidance on the Children
(Performance and Activities)
(Wales) Regulations 2015



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

www.gov.wales



A young people's summary

Hello

School theatre

Orchestra

Singing

Dancing

TV drama

Sports

Film acting

Talent shows



Modelling

These can be fun and are an important part of life in Wales.

There is a new law: the Children (Performance and Activities) (Wales) Regulations 2015.

This is our new guidance (set of steps) to help everyone understand what they have to do because of the new law.

The Welsh Government wants children to enjoy these opportunities as much as they can.

They can help children gain skills, grow in confidence, increase self-esteem and even help them get a career.

Some children get paid, others don't. But we want to make sure they're all safe.



Who needs this guidance?

This is for:

- anyone organising a professional or amateur performance that involves children
- theatre companies and agents
- people who work with children in paid sport or paid modelling activities
- parents and carers
- chaperones
- local authorities
- schools and colleges.

i **Professional performances** – people get paid.

Amateur performance – people don't get paid.

Chaperones – someone there, when parents can't be, to look after children performing.

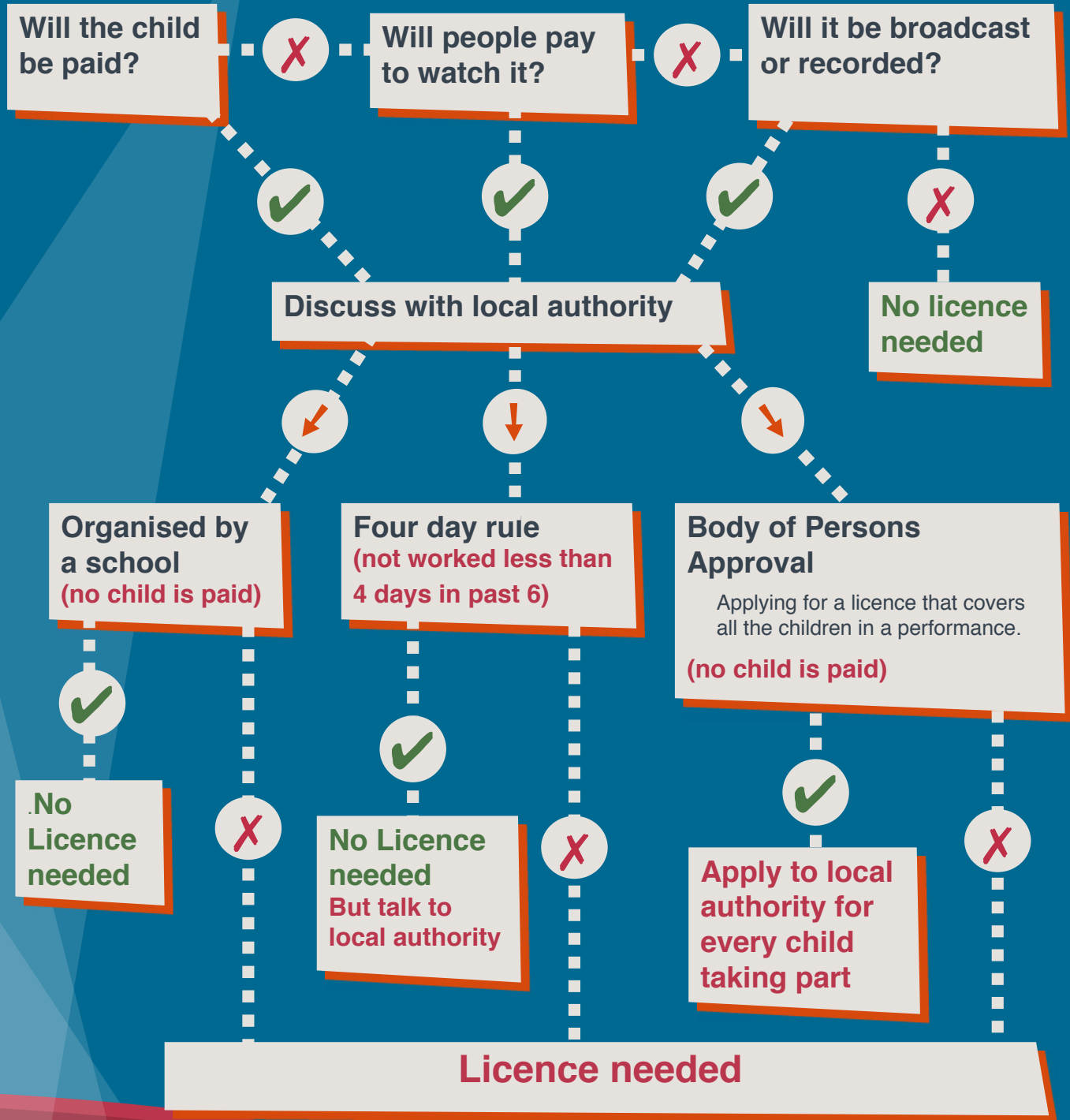
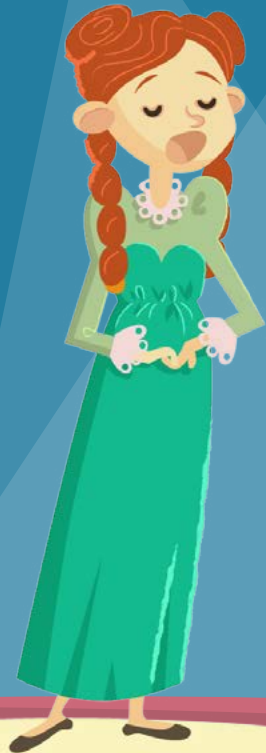
This guidance helps keep children who live in Wales and children coming to perform in Wales safe.



Do you need a licence?

A licence can be for one performance or cover a run of performances over time.

i Not having a licence when a child needs one is breaking the law.



Education and school

Education is important.

If the performance happens during school time then local authorities normally can't give a licence until they have a permission letter from the child's head teacher.

The letter must give permission for children to:

- be absent on the set dates of the performance or event or
- say that they can take part and miss school as needed, and that their learning won't be affected.

Without permission it's an 'unauthorised absence'.

If it isn't in school time then no letter is needed. But the head teacher can ask to talk to parents if it starts to affect learning.

If children are going to miss a lot of school time then a local authority must set out in the licence how and where they will get an education.

Break time

Even if no licence is needed all children must have breaks.

Breaks

- Meal breaks – at least 45 minutes
- other breaks – at least 15 minutes.

Between performances

- Performances more than 1 hour – at least 90 minutes
- performances less than 1 hour – at least 45 minutes
- overnight breaks – at least 12 hours

So if a performance ends at 23:00 on Friday, break until at least 11:00 Saturday

Time spent in make-up, getting into costumes, warm-up exercises or rehearsals don't count as a break.



Rules included in a licence

The licence will set out rules and conditions to make sure children are:

- healthy and fit enough to take part
- being cared for
- able to get an education.

Rules about time

Organisers should allow for travel time in setting the timetable for the day.



It's important that everyone understands the amount of time children can work.

Age	Total time they can be at the place of performance	Sessions can't be more than:	Total amount of performing or rehearsing in a day:	Start and finish times
Birth to 5	5 hours	30 minutes	2 hours	Start 7:00 Finish 22:00
From 5 - 9	8 hours	2 hours 30 minutes	3 hours	Start 7:00 Finish 22:00
From 9 - 16	9 hours 30 minutes	2 hours 30 minutes	5 hours	Start 7:00 Finish 22:00

Chaperones

A chaperone's only job is to look after the child.

The local authority has to approve all chaperones and make sure they have all the training they need.

Chaperones should:

- be involved and speak up about anything that worries them
- make sure a child doesn't perform if they're not well
- make sure children have the right breaks
- make sure children aren't left alone with other adults (except their parent or teacher)
- protect the child from being forced into anything they don't want to do
- have a contact list with all the information they need.

They can also:

- see a copy of scripts to make sure it's suitable for the child's age
- decide if a child can be allowed to work late and then let the local authority know.



Applying for a licence?

Apply to the local authority where a child lives. However if a child lives outside the UK then apply to the local authority where the performance is.

i To get a licence to perform outside the UK, organisations need to apply to a magistrate.

Put in your application at least 21 days before the performance.

You will need to include:

- information about the child
- information about the performance or activity
- a risk assessment to show the arrangements you have to look after the child.

The application form must be signed by the person applying and a parent.

How the application works

The local authority will check all the information. Then they can ask:

- for a medical exam and report on the child
- to talk with the private teacher, the child, the child's parent(s), the applicant or the chaperone.

The local authority giving the licence must check:

- any place children are staying if they aren't staying at home
- the place where children are performing, rehearsing or taking part in an activity.

A local authority can refuse to give a licence but they will explain why it hasn't been allowed.



After you get a licence

All information and documents about the licence must be kept for six months. Local authorities and the police can ask to see these at any time.

You must have records of which days and how long children:

- were at the place of performance or rehearsal
- perform or rehearse
- take breaks
- do education
- perform at night.

You must also record:

- start and finish times for each day
- any injuries and illnesses
- the dates of any breaks in performances
- all money earned by the child, whether paid to the child or another person.

Local authorities have the power to check if children are happy, fit, cared for, getting an education and not overworked.

Thanks

If you want to know more about these guidelines please go to the full guidance here:

<http://gov.wales/topics/educationandskills/publications/guidance/keeping-young-performers-safe>

