



## CHILDREN TAKING PART IN PUBLIC ENTERTAINMENT

For example; Theatre, TV, Modelling

Many children enjoy performing in plays, films, and advertising or on television and parents enjoy supporting them.

Current legislation exists which is designed to protect the health, welfare and education of these children and prevent them from being exploited. Although this legislation is very complex, the following information is intended to give you a general overview of the Children (Performances) Regulations 1968 and explain both the school's and Local Authority's parts in enabling children to perform safely and not at a detriment to their education.

Please note for the purposes of this guidance:

“The Local Authority” is defined as the Authority where the child normally resides, and may not in some instances be the same as the Authority where they attend school.

“A child” is defined as any child of compulsory school age.

“A performance” is defined as any performance for which a child will either receive payment or will require absence from school.

In order to comply with the regulations referred to above, it is a requirement that the Producer or Director of a performance apply for a licence directly to the child's Local Authority. This “Application for a Licence” is divided into three parts:

- Part 1 is completed by the Producer/Director of a performance. This is the applicant and eventual licence holder. This section will confirm to a school as well as the Local Authority, the details of what the performance entails, the dates and times of the performances and more importantly to you, the dates that the applicant may require a child to be absent from school in order to perform. (Question 10 on the application form)

- Part 2 is a declaration signed by the child's parent or legal guardian.
- Part 3 is the section for the Headteacher to complete and sign as confirmation that you would be in agreement to authorise the child being absent on the dates specified in Part 1 of the application. Where possible we would ask that you also affix the school stamp in this section. You may also wish to make a note of these dates to check against the copy licence that will be sent to school. These absences would then need to be recorded in the school register as Authorised Absence.

Upon receipt of a fully completed application form the Welfare Team based at Jesmond House, Harrogate will check the information to make sure that it fully complies to the regulations before issuing the applicant with a licence. It is normal practice for the team to send a copy of the licence to school to place on the child's record. We would ask that you ensure that the dates of school absence provided on the licence tie up with your records.

It is important to stress that not all performances require a licence and these would include school performances and school choirs. In addition to these, any activity that the Local Authority would deem not to be a "performance" would also not require a licence. These activities might include children who are interviewed or filmed whilst taking part in some normal activity not specially arranged for the purpose, such as doing their ordinary school lessons.

Please be aware that the Children (Performances) Regulations 1968 are currently under review by the Government. We will endeavour to write out to schools again once the outcome of the review is known.

For more detailed information with regards to the Children (Performances) Regulations 1968 and the application process please refer to our website [www.northyorks.gov.uk/childemployment](http://www.northyorks.gov.uk/childemployment) or contact the Welfare Team on 01609 533405. Email: [schoolwelfare@northyorks.gov.uk](mailto:schoolwelfare@northyorks.gov.uk)

For further information with regards to the recording of absence for the purposes of performances, please contact Allan Tunningley on 01609 536765 or [Allan.Tunningley@northyorks.gov.uk](mailto:Allan.Tunningley@northyorks.gov.uk)