

Federation of Drama Schools

Ethical Code

In the wake of recent revelations in the theatre world concerning sexual harassment, the member schools of the Federation of Drama Schools have looked carefully at existing rehearsal and training processes to see how improvements can be rapidly made. Dealing with intimate situations between human beings is often at the core of our work and it is important to recognise this and ensure that the work around it is always undertaken in a safe and secure environment. We believe there are two central issues to examine: the concept of consent and the processes that are available if a situation arises that needs fast response.

For consent it is clear that active consent is required for any intimate process. Consent can neither be presumed or expected or given under pressure, by peers or teachers/directors. We commit to undertake training sessions in order to understand the right of consent and the complexities of consent, permission, ethical caring, physical contact, appropriate and ethical touch and personal integrity in and out of classes and the rehearsal room. We will particularly focus on contexts where there might seem to be or there is an unequal power balance.

All schools already have processes in place to deal with sexual or other forms of harassment. We commit to making clear and easy to follow information and named people and contact information readily available to all staff and students. All the schools in the Federation have their own rules and regulations concerning rehearsal and learning situations. However, we commit to clarifying and refining these rules.

We agree to ensure that training takes place for teachers, actors, directors and stage managers to make explicit expectations and the importance of active consent and clear procedures to deal with any instances that arise.