



What is the Wycombe Swan Drama Club and how do I apply?

Wycombe Swan Drama Club is a 10 week programme for young people aged **8-18 years old**. Our theatre professionals work with small groups (8-10 years, 11-13 years, 14-16 years & 17-18 years) every Monday evening during term time. The aim is to build a devised play to be performed at the end of the 10 week term using a variety of drama techniques.

You can apply by emailing education@wycombeswan.co.uk and requesting an application form for your free taster session.

IMPORTANT INFORMATION:

Places must be booked in advance and you must supply your child's information before attending the classes.

What should I expect during the 10 week Drama Club?

Our first session on Mon 13 January 2020 is a **free taster session**. In this first session the group will take part in a variety of drama exercises, games and team building tasks.

They will then be given the choice of 3 popular youth literature plays (previous titles have been *Pride and Prejudice*, *Swallows and Amazons*, *The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night Time*, *Oliver* and *The Boy in the Stripped Pyjamas*). Throughout the 10 sessions, each group will use a variety of techniques including physical theatre, devising theatre, soundscapes, improvisation, movement, music, character, games and script work to tell the chosen story.

This programme is perfect for those who want to develop their confidence, creativity and performance skills. Many of our participants have progressed through each age group up to the 14-18 year group where they work much more closely with the creative team to develop their characterisation as well as other acting techniques to tell their chosen story. All these sessions will be fast-paced, fun and focus on building social and acting skills.

- No auditions necessary
- We keep our class sizes small – so waiting lists may apply.

A short performance will be given on at the end of a 10 week term which is free to family and friends.



Who will run the classes?

Our professional theatre director **Matthew Dye** will be teaching alongside some workshop assistants. Matthew currently works as our Youth Project director and has many years of directing and teaching experience. He teaches for PQA and Stagecoach and is excited to be involved in the group where his passion for devised theatre will be shared with the group members. Our Creative Learning Assistant **Bethany Hines** will be in these sessions to oversee everything.

The team is assisted by a small, hand-picked team of Workshop Assistants. Our assistants have lots of experience and have appeared in many in-house productions and workshops. They have been selected for their skills and affinity with children and are trained to a high level with DBS clearance.

Behaviour and Discipline

We don't like to be too strict as our sessions are all about fun but there is no tolerance for bad language, bullying or physically threatening behaviour. Any incident that relates to these actions will result in immediate exclusion from the group. Minor behaviour issues result in a 3 strike rule: A warning, a private word with the leader and finally a chat with your parent. If a parent is called then we may ask for the child to be removed from the sessions until further notice.

Sickness and injury

If a child is sick or injured within the session then the parent will be contacted immediately and if necessary first aid will be admitted. Parents are encouraged to keep children at home if there are signs of sickness before the session.

Free Taster Session – Mon 13 January 2020

There is no obligation to commit to the group until after this first taster session. On the first gathering we will be playing games and getting to know the others in the group. We will explain how each session will work and give examples of devising techniques. We will also play improvisation games as ice-breakers.

If your child wishes to join the group after the first session a form will be sent in order to enrol and make payment. You will then be committed to attend every Monday for the entire 10 week term. By week 8 of each term you will be sent a renewal reminder. Should you/your child wish to retain their membership for another term then further payment will be required.

How much is it?

The taster session on Mon 13 January is free. If your child then wishes to join the Drama Club, the 10 week programme costs £70* per child, per term.



Age groups

We ask that you bring your child to the group related to their age for the first session. Once we have met your child and accessed how they get on in the group we may suggest they are re-directed to an older group (this will only happen if they are on the cusp of the age bracket).

8-10 YEARS	5PM - 6PM
11-13 YEARS	6PM – 7PM
14-16 YEARS	7PM – 8PM
17-18 YEARS	8PM – 9PM

All meet in the **Oak Room**. (Above the Old Town Hall).

Younger children: If your child is in one of the younger groups and is anxious to be left alone, we ask that parents only stay for the first 15 mins of the session. We find that if parents stay for the duration, this can inhibit the 'settling in' process so please don't be offended if you are asked to leave after the first quarter of an hour.

Signing in / out

It is extremely important to sign your child in and out of the session – you will also need to supply an emergency contact number and details of any medical conditions or learning difficulties prior to attendance. We will need to be contacted in advance if someone other than the authorised parent/guardian is to collect the child.

We look forward to meeting your child and introducing them to the rest of the group.

Bethany Hines
Creative Learning Manager