

Youth Circus Parent/Guardian information

Welcome

Welcome to NoFit State's Youth Circus, we are delighted your child has joined the circus! Please find a few minutes to read the following essential information.

Before the class begins

- Carefully complete our ICE (in case of emergency) and Par-Q (Physical Activity Readiness Questionnaire) form. Help us to ensure your child has the best experience with us by letting us know of any pre-existing conditions whether medical or physical, emotional, social or behavioural and any advice on how we might best support your child.
- Please ensure your contact details and other important information are always kept up to date and let us know if there is anything else we should be aware of before class begins.
- Please ensure your child is wearing appropriate clothing. Tracksuit bottoms/leggings with a t-shirt, either fitted or one they are able to tuck in are ideal as well as a long sleeved top/hoody. (Shorts, baggy clothing, combat style trousers with pockets on the side are not suitable). If your child wishes to wear a skirt, please ensure they wear leggings too. Most activities are barefoot but some require clean trainers/pumps.
- Long hair should be tied back and all jewellery apart from stud earrings should be left at home.
- Please try to arrive a few minutes before class starts so your child is here in time for the warm up.
- You must sign in at Reception. Please let us know if the adult collecting your child isn't going to be you.
- For younger children, please encourage a toilet stop before class.
- We only allow drinks of water in the training space. Your child is welcome to bring their own bottle but we also have jugs of water and cups here for them.
- Please wait with your child until their teachers collect them. You have full responsibility for your child until class starts at which time trainers take on duty of care.

During class

- We understand that if it is the child's first class there may need to be a settling in period. We encourage parents/guardians to discuss any concerns they have

regarding separation issues with the child's trainer. We would hope that after the first or second class any anxieties have passed but will assess as needed.

- Once they are happy we ask parents to leave and return at pick-up time. The reason we do not encourage parent viewing is to create a safe nurturing environment for the children so they can try new things without an audience. We will have regular sharing opportunities so you can see the skills they develop. If you would rather stay in the building you are welcome to sit in our parlour.

After class

- Please collect your child promptly from class. If you're running late please call Reception on 02920 221330 to let them know. If you are consistently late to collect your child, we reserve the right to ask you not to attend as we do not have the staff to look after your child outside of class.
- All children must be collected by a parent/guardian with the exception of Jedis aged 11+ whose parents have given permission for them to leave alone. However, if these Jedis wish to leave before a class finishes, their parent must contact Reception to authorise this.

Priority rebooking

Our priority rebooking system ensures that current youth circus attendees are always given priority to rebook a space in the next block before opening up spaces to the general public. We will email you to let you know when priority rebooking is open. It is essential that you book within this 2 week period as most of our classes are fully booked and we don't want your child to lose their space. We strongly recommend paying by standing order, please speak to Reception for more information.

Ewoks, Wookies and Padawans book in half termly blocks following the school year. Jedi classes are booked in monthly blocks instead, and also follow the school year.

Moving up

If you feel your child is ready to move up to the next class please speak to Reception or their teacher. For teaching continuity we try to only move children at the start of a new term but this is very much space dependent. If we don't have space available to move your child immediately they will be put on a priority waiting list and moved at the earliest opportunity.

Refund policy

All class and workshop fees are non-refundable unless the class is cancelled by us. If your child is unable to attend due to illness or injury, postponement or refund will be offered at our discretion and a £10 administration fee may be charged.

Bursaries

As a charity we strive to keep our classes accessible to all and have a limited number of bursary spaces. If financing your child/ren's classes is a concern you can apply for a bursary via our website or speak to Reception for an application form.

If you would like to contribute to our bursary fund we welcome the offer of supporting a bursary place for another child. For information please email bethan@nofitstate.org

Safeguarding

We have a Safeguarding, Child and Vulnerable Adult Protection policy in place, a Safeguarding Officer and methods/procedures to ensure that your child is looked after whilst in our care.

Disclaimer

NoFit State makes every effort to ensure instruction, equipment and training is as safe as possible. Circus is a physical activity and participation in such activities comes with potential risks. Participants must conduct themselves in a safe manner and are responsible for their own physical health and ability and partake in the activity at their own risk.

Stay in the loop

Please keep us in the loop before class of any health or emotional issues your child may be experiencing. We endeavour to accommodate an individual's needs and development. Any concerns or questions can be directed to Olga our Head of Youth Circus via email youthcircus@nofitstate.org

There is a regular emailed community newsletter to keep you in touch with what's going on. Please sign up via our website or when completing your child's ICE form.

Photography and filming

On the Youth Circus ICE PAR-Q form there is a section for permission for us to use photos. Please discuss this with your child. We ask that parents do not share any photos or videos on social media of any classes, workshops or performances.

Career Development

We have a successful record of helping former Youth Circus participants to gain further education places and careers in circus and the arts. Keep us updated of your child's aspirations as we will help in this as much as we can.

Feedback

We welcome your feedback and encourage conversation between parents, children and trainers. If you have any concerns you can speak in confidence to any of the contacts listed below.

Useful contacts (or call Reception on 02920 221330)

Community Programme Manager – Kate Parry	kate@nofitstate.org
Head of Youth Circus – Olga Kaleta	youthcircus@nofitstate.org
Safeguarding Officer – Jo Richmond	jo@nofitstate.org
Reception Team – Jo, Rachel, Alice, Oana	reception@nofitstate.org

We hope you and your child enjoy your time with NoFit State!