

House Parent Volunteers

About us

National Youth Ballet believes that ballet can be for everyone. Our programmes aim to challenge perceptions about what ballet can be and who it is for. NYB has provided transformational opportunities for young people for over 30 years to participate in, create and perform classical and contemporary ballet.

In addition to our Residential Performance Company team, NYB is now seeking a Support Team of House Parent volunteers to join us for the duration of the Residential Performance Company. This is an exciting opportunity to experience first-hand the unique process of taking our company of talented dancers from studio to stage in one week. It also opens a window for parents or family to see the values and culture of National Youth Ballet come alive in the beautiful setting of Elmhurst Ballet School and to get to know the core NYB team and creative practitioners.

The adult team working at the residential will include:

- 12 house parent volunteers
- 3 NYB recent alumnae volunteers
- 1 healthcare worker (nurse)
- 1 sports therapist
- 12 creative practitioners
- 6 core NYB management team
- Elmhurst site and kitchen staff

National Youth Ballet is recruiting House Parent volunteers for the duration of the Residential Performance Company from Sunday 13 August - Saturday 19 August (6 nights in total). As a House Parent volunteer you will work as a team from a rota, providing pastoral support and supervision of young dancers throughout the residential week. House Parents are the backbone of pastoral support, and look after the day to day social and emotional needs of their young dancers as part of a team from waking until bedtime, during leisure time and at meal times. During studio time, dancers are supervised by NYB practitioners.

The Support Team is led this year by our new Safeguarding and Support Team Manager Nisha Denton who is a registered social worker, having worked in safeguarding teams for over 10 years.

Nisha will be the first point of contact for any concerns, questions about the day, medical issues or problems associated with the residential setting and its maintenance.

Key responsibilities

We want our House Parent volunteers to feel well informed about the role. You will have access to a Support Team Pack 6 weeks prior to arrival. You will also be required to attend one online 1-hour meeting ahead of the residential to meet the team, identify any students with additional needs, and talk through the key responsibilities. House Parents will also attend the online all-team 3-hour Safeguarding training run by Squad Safe.

The House Parent role is about providing excellent pastoral care, and nurturing a safe environment in which all our young dancers can thrive. All NYB staff and volunteers adhere to our NYB policies, including our Safeguarding Policy and Code of Conduct. The House Parent role is most busy around waking, mealtimes, recreational activity and bedtimes. There is a rota throughout the day to ensure a balance of rest breaks with on-duty support for young dancers who come out of the studio for whatever reason.

This is an important and responsible role (just like parenting your own child/children) and you must be passionate about the wellbeing of children. In particular, we welcome volunteers with experience of working in a setting with children and young people e.g. paediatric healthcare workers, teacher, teaching assistant, sports coach, youth worker or youth performing arts. House Parents need to have a strong sense of responsibility, be kind, approachable, good listeners, organised and able to work collaboratively with others.

House Parent Volunteer Requirements

Licence

House Parents must have either a chaperone licence which is approved and licensed by their local authority where they reside **OR** have an up to date enhanced Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) check. NYB can support you to obtain a DBS check if needed. Any costs associated with this will be reimbursed.

House parent role:

- To be proactive, enthusiastic and think outside the box.
- To supervise and arrange activities in line with the children and young people's needs and interests.
- To supervise the children and young people outside of their scheduled timetables.
- To have knowledge of the whereabouts and timetable of each child and young person allocated to their house.

- To ensure that the children and young people have a routine in the mornings, afternoons and evenings when they are in their housing blocks, to include, general hygiene, cleanliness, getting ready for day etc
- To ensure the children and young people are participating in meal times (breakfast, lunch and dinner)
- To ensure the children and young people are having a good amount of water throughout the day, reminding them where possible.
- To ensure the children and young people attend their timetable activities throughout the day.
- To report any concerns to the named safeguarding lead, Nisha Denton. This includes, safeguarding, general wellbeing or if you are unsure of something.
- To participate in daily check ins with the other house parents and support team to ensure effective handover and information sharing.
- To record, and update where necessary medical injuries to the Safeguarding Lead, Nisha Denton.
- Be responsible for providing the children and young people with medication (allergies or medical needs) and documenting this throughout the day in line with NYB Policy.
- To provide a daily head count/register of the children and young people you are responsible for in your housing block.
- To ensure fire safety drills are followed should this arise.
- To complete daily registers and head counts throughout the day for health and safety.

Resources

Key dates are Sunday 13 August - Saturday 19 August 2023 for the residency at Elmhurst Ballet School plus one prior meeting online and one all-staff Safeguarding training session.

In addition, NYB offers every volunteer £50 towards travel expenses, and full accommodation in individual rooms (shared bathrooms) plus three hot meals per day provided by the Elmhurst kitchen.

How to get involved

Interested volunteers should complete the link to the Google Form included in the offer letter to your child outlining how you meet the criteria for the role and why you want to volunteer for National Youth Ballet.

The closing date for applications is **5pm on Friday 19 May 2023.**

Reasonable adjustments will be made for applicants if required, please let us know if you have any additional needs.

Meet and Greet

For those who have expressed an interest, as part of our Safer Recruitment process, we would like to meet any potential volunteers. This would be a short 15-minute online meet and greet with our

Safeguarding and Support Team Manager Nisha Denton on Monday 5th June. Slots will be allocated between 9am-1pm on zoom.

If you would like to discuss anything in relation to this application please don't hesitate to get in touch with Nisha via email nisha.denton@nationalyouthballet.org.

Safeguarding

NYB is committed to safeguarding and protecting all children and young people who participate in our activities. We ensure that we have the policies and procedures in place so that we can do everything possible to safeguard all our staff and participants. NYB practises Safer Recruitment. In line with our Safeguarding Policy if you are offered the role, you will be subject to a DBS check.

Date created: 29 March 2023

NYB Values	
Safe	We champion healthy and sustainable practice.
Nurturing	We contribute to a mutually positive and nurturing experience.
Respectful	We are respectful of each other, and show this in our interactions with everyone; both online and in person.
Inclusive	We value diversity and proactively seek to create an inclusive environment for all stakeholders.
Communal	We are a community and we grow from our shared experience.
Creativity and Artistry	At our core we are creative and collaborate in our creative process.

JD March 2023

Challenging	We challenge perceptions about what ballet is and conventions about who ballet is for.
Quality	We work hard to create high quality educational and dance experiences.