

Child Protection Policy for Danceworks

1. Introduction

At Danceworks the safety and well-being of children and young people who participate in our dance classes are of paramount importance. We are committed to providing a safe, nurturing, and supportive environment where children can learn and grow in a positive and protective atmosphere. This policy outlines our commitment to child protection and sets the standards and procedures we follow to safeguard children in our care.

2. Statement of Commitment

We recognize that:

- All children have the right to protection from harm.
- Every child has the right to participate in dance activities in an environment that promotes respect, trust, and dignity.
- Our staff and volunteers have a responsibility to act in the best interests of the children and young people attending our school.

3. Safeguarding Procedures

We will:

- Ensure that all staff, teachers, and volunteers undergo background checks (such as Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) checks or equivalent) before being employed or permitted to work with children.
- Provide all staff with child protection training upon induction, with ongoing training to ensure staff are familiar with best practices for safeguarding.
- Ensure there is a clear reporting system in place for any concerns or disclosures related to child protection, and that these concerns are taken seriously, reported promptly, and investigated appropriately.
- Maintain a safe environment where any form of abuse (physical, emotional, or sexual) or bullying will not be tolerated.

4. Staff and Volunteer Guidelines

All staff, teachers, and volunteers must:

- Treat all children with respect, kindness, and understanding.
- Avoid any one-on-one situations with children in isolated or private areas where they may be vulnerable.
- Always ensure that interactions with children are in an open and visible environment.
- Refrain from physical contact that could be misinterpreted or that makes a child uncomfortable, unless necessary for the teaching of dance in a safe and appropriate manner.
- Never use inappropriate language or engage in any form of behavior that may be harmful to a child.

5. Code of Conduct for Students

We encourage all students to:

- Treat fellow dancers, teachers, and staff with respect and kindness.

- Inform a trusted adult if they feel unsafe, uncomfortable, or witness behavior that seems inappropriate.

6. Reporting Concerns

If any staff member, volunteer, student, or parent has concerns regarding the safety or well-being of a child, they should report these concerns to the Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL) immediately. In the case of urgent concerns or allegations, we will follow local safeguarding procedures, including contacting the appropriate authorities such as local social services or law enforcement.

The DSL at Danceworks is Katie Cresswell, and they can be contacted at 01242 233 338

7. Anti-Bullying Policy

We are committed to promoting a positive and inclusive environment where bullying of any form (physical, emotional, or online) is not tolerated. Any reports of bullying will be taken seriously and addressed promptly to ensure a safe and supportive atmosphere for all.

8. Health and Safety

We will ensure that:

- Our premises are safe, clean, and well-maintained.
- Dance equipment is regularly checked for safety, and any damaged equipment is promptly removed or repaired.
- Risk assessments are conducted for all events, trips, and activities outside the usual class schedule.

9. Parent and Carer Involvement

We encourage open communication with parents and carers and ask them to:

- Keep us informed of any medical conditions or special requirements their child may have.
- Inform us of any changes in emergency contact details.
- Support the school's policies and procedures, including this Child Protection Policy.

10. Review of Policy

This policy will be reviewed regularly and updated as necessary to reflect any changes in legislation or practice. We welcome feedback from parents, students, and staff to ensure our policies continue to meet the needs of the children in our care.

11. Conclusion

Danceworks is dedicated to maintaining a safe, supportive, and respectful environment where children can develop their dance skills with confidence. We strive to uphold the highest standards of safeguarding and are committed to ensuring that every child in our care is protected and respected.

Signed

Whanita La Bouchardiere
Principal
17/03/2025