

Policy Number 4 – Child Protection

4.1 Aims

- 4.1.1 Dance Connection School of Dance aims to comply with the requirements provided in the Children Act 1989, the Human Rights Act 1998, the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Children, The Protection of Children Act 1999, the Criminal Justice & Court Service Act 2000 and the Children's Bill 2004.
- 4.1.2 Any reference to the School includes Dance Connection School of Dance and Dance Connection School of Dance – Ballet & Tap.

4.2 Definitions

The School recognises a distinction between four different kinds of abuse.

- 4.2.1 Physical Abuse: where children's bodies are hurt or injured.
- 4.2.2 Emotional Abuse: where children do not receive courtesy and respect, may be frightened by threats or taunts, or are given responsibilities beyond their year's
- 4.2.3 Sexual Abuse: where adults and sometimes other children use children to satisfy their sexual desires.
- 4.2.4 Neglect: where adults persistently fail to care for children and protect them from danger, seriously impairing health and development.

4.3 General Principles

- 4.3.1 The school recognises that it is a privilege to work with children and young people; and that it is also a great responsibility. Parents trust us to look after their children, and to care for them, give leadership, and keep them safe. We need to ensure that we honour their trust.
- 4.3.2 The School aims to take reasonable steps to ensure that children/young people are not exposed to a reasonable foreseeable risk of injury, whether to their physical or mental health. The School is committed to the protection from harm and safekeeping of all children/young people who attend our activities ensuring that leaders, workers and volunteers respond appropriately should abuse be discovered or disclosed and any reported incidents of abuse are fully recorded.
- 4.3.3 The School aims to give guidance on avoiding situations where a worker's/volunteer's actions may be misunderstood (this last point is concerned with protecting both children and workers/volunteers from false allegations.
- 4.3.4 The School is committed to having suitable and adequate supervision of children/young people at all times while children/young people are attending school activities.

4.4 Policy Statement

Dance Connection School of Dance (The School) is committed to creating an environment that enables children and young people to learn and develop in a safe, understanding and encouraging environment.

The School recognises that it is a privilege to work with children and young people; and that it is also a great responsibility. Parents/Guardians trust the School to look after their children, and care for them, give leadership, and keep them safe. The School needs to ensure that we honour their trust.

The School will take reasonable steps to ensure that children and young people are not exposed to a reasonable foreseeable risk of injury, whether physical or mental health. The School is committed to the protection from harm and safekeeping of all children and young people who attend it's activities ensuring that Staff, assistants and volunteers respond appropriately should abuse be discovered or disclosed and any reported incidents of abuse are fully recorded.

The School will endeavour to safeguard children and young people by, recognising its 'Duty of Care', by adopting child protection guidelines through:

- A Code of Conduct for staff and volunteers.
- Establishing clear procedures for complaints and concerns
- Disseminating information to children and young people, parents/guardians, cares, staff and volunteers about child protection and good practise with children and young people.
- Developing links and sharing information about concerns, with agencies, who need to know, and involving parents/guardians, children and young people appropriately.
- Ensuring that procedures for selection of staff and volunteers are rigorous, clear, fair and uniformly applied.
- Providing effective management for staff and volunteers through supervision, support and training.

This policy will work in tandem with the Schools Heath & Safety and Data Protection Polices.

4.5 Implementation

4.5.1 Designated Officer(s)

The **School Principal** – Alison Walker - is designated as Child Protection Officer who will take responsibility for handling disclosure or suspicions of abuse as well as co-ordinating referrals and investigations.

The school also has 3 additional personnel who have undergone Telford & Wrekin Safeguarding Children Board Training in *Raising Awareness in Child Protection* and all hold CRB Certificates: they are Christine Holmes, Liz Bekker and Judy Frost.

4.5.2 Access to Policy

The policy is available on the Schools website and is available to read at the registration desk.

4.5.3 The School will continually monitor the implementation of this policy, it's practices and procedures and review the policy on a annual basis. The School undertakes to make and retain a full and detailed record of any reported incident or suspicion of abuse.