



CHILD PROTECTION POLICY 2021

Introduction

The health, safety and well-being of all our children are of paramount importance to all the adults who work in our dance school. Our children have the right to protection, regardless of age, gender, race, culture or ability. They have a right to be safe in our school.

In our school we respect our children and we encourage them to do their best. We provide opportunities that enable our children to take and make decisions for themselves.

Aims and Objectives

This policy ensures that all staff in our school are clear about the actions necessary regarding a child protection issue. Its aims are:

- To raise the awareness of all staff and identify responsibility in reporting possible cases of abuse.
- To ensure effective communication between all staff when dealing with child protection issues.
- To lay down the correct procedures for those who encounter an issue of child protection.

Procedures

Mrs Rhian Jackson, a member of staff is the named person in the company who is the Child Protection Co-ordinator. If any teacher suspects that a child in his/her class may be a victim of abuse, they immediately inform the named person about their concerns. Abuse can be of a sexual, emotional or physical nature. It can also be the result of neglect.

Any action that the named person takes when dealing with an issue of child protection must be in line with procedures advised by the local authority child protection representative.

In the event of any issues Rhian will work closely with the Social Services department and the Area Child Protection Committee. All parties involved handle such investigations in a sensitive manner, but the interest of the child is of paramount importance.

If a child protection referral is made, a case conference is held within tight timescales of the decision. The case conference offers the opportunity to share information and formulate a plan of action. Staff are expected to attend and participate in all case conferences and meetings are held under local authority guidelines.

We regard all information relating to individual child protection issues as confidential and we treat this accordingly. We only pass information on to appropriate persons. We inform the child at all stages of who is involved and what information we have given them where appropriate.

We require all adults employed in the dance school to be CRB enhanced checked to ensure that there is no evidence of offences involving children or abuse.

There may be times when teachers in the dance school use physical intervention in respect of good teaching (eg adjusting arm lines). It must be understood by all parents and guardians that this is deemed necessary in the safe and effective teaching of dance technique. If a parent/guardian is unhappy with this teaching technique, their concerns must be raised with the Principal immediately, who will record the request and ensure it is adhered to.

If any of the staff at any time must use physical intervention in the course of their duty to restrain a child. The Principal requires the adult involved to report this to her immediately and it is recorded in the incident book.

Monitoring and Reviewing

The Principal regularly reviews any incidents detailed in the incident book and keeps up to date regarding the child protection procedures. This policy is reviewed annually by the Principal.

Mrs R Jackson
Jan 2021