**CHILD PROTECTION POLICY**

**THE DANCERS SCHOOL**

The purpose of this policy statement is:

* to protect children and young people who receive The Dancers School’s services from harm
* to provide staff & volunteers, as well as children, young people & their families, with the overarching principles that guide our approach to child protection

This policy has been drawn up on the basis of legislation, policy & guidance that seeks to protect children in England. A summary of the key legislation & guidance is available from nspcc.org.uk/child protection.

This document forms the child protection policy for The Dancers School and should be followed by all teachers, assistant teachers and parent helpers during dancing lessons, examination sessions and performances.  The principles should apply to all children and young people attending the school but also to any vulnerable adults who participate from time to time.

The objective of The Dancers School is to provide dance classes for all sections of the community regardless of gender, age, race, religious belief or disability. We believe that no child or young person should be the subject of neglectful or abusive behaviour. We will endeavour to create a safe and welcoming environment for all.

We believe that:

* children & young people should never experience abuse of any kind
* we have a responsibility to promote the welfare of all children & young people, to keep them safe and to practise in a way that protects them

We recognise that:

* the welfare of children is paramount in all the work we do & in all the decisions we take
* working in partnership with children, young people, their parents, carers & other agencies is essential in promoting young people’s welfare
* all children regardless of age, disability, gender reassignment, race, religion or belief have an equal right to protection from all types of harm or abuse
* some children are additionally vulnerable because of the impact of previous experiences, their level of dependency, communication needs or other issues
* extra safeguards may be needed to keep children who are additionally vulnerable safe from abuse

To protect children and young people in our care we will:

* value and respect children and listen to what they have to say
* adopt child protection & safeguarding best practice through our policies, procedures & code of conduct for staff & volunteers
* ensure all required checks are made if hiring staff, and that those in regular contact with children hold a current DBS check
* ensure all staff & volunteers know about & follow our policies, procedures & behaviour codes
* take responsibility for children and young people’s safety when in our care
* record, store & use information professionally & securely, in line with data protection legislation & guidance
* make sure children, young people & their families know where to go for help if they have a concern
* use our safeguarding & child protection procedures to share concerns & relevant information with agencies who need to know, & involving children, young people, parents, families & carers appropriately
* use procedures to manage any allegations against staff & volunteers appropriately
* create & maintain an anti-bullying environment & ensure that we have a policy & procedure to deal effectively with any bullying that does arise
* ensure a safe physical environment is provided by applying health & safety measures in accordance with the law & regulatory guidance
* seek permission from parents before taking images (photographs or film) of students
* ensure only appropriate physical contact within the dance genre
* monitor carefully the use of photographs and film of children & young people

The school aims to provide a safe environment where children can learn in suitable secure surroundings under the care of fully qualified, registered, insured and DBS checked teachers. Teachers are aided from time to time with assistant teachers, who teach under the guidance of the main teacher, and from chaperones and parent helpers during shows.  Class sizes are limited to ensure a suitable ratio of care.   All staff, voluntary or otherwise, are expected to share any concerns of suspected abuse to Jayne King in the first instance and this will be acted upon immediately.

Please note that teaching and learning dance is clearly a physical activity, and a teacher will sometimes need to make physical contact with a student to show an idea or to correct the student’s position. This will include adjusting various parts of the body and moving students around in relation to each other. Where contact is needed, this will be done sensitively and appropriately.

During all shows, areas are supervised by chaperones and separate changing areas are provided for all ages of male and female pupils, supervised by registered chaperones, and sometimes additional enhanced DBS checked volunteers. If necessary, one to one care can be provided during shows and exams for vulnerable pupils needing extra support, provided they attend full time school. No visitors will be allowed in changing areas nor back stage and only those adults listed on the rota will have access to back stage areas.  All staff, volunteers, first aiders and DBS checked supervisors will be identified by badges.

Unless officially authorised, no recordings of any kind are allowed during classes or during shows, be it photographs or video, except by a designated person making a DVD recording of a performance.  All parents are asked to sign a form to state if they agree that photos of their children could be used for promotional purposes (press releases, website, etc.) and should notify the school if this permission changes. Any parent who does not wish their child to be filmed for a show DVD should notify the school in writing prior to the performance and they have full rights to ask for their child not to be filmed.

Contact details for the Child Protection lead:

Jayne King

07746 141525

info@thedancersschool.co.uk

If the concern is connected to the safeguarding lead above, then this concern should be shared with the Local Authority Designated Officer:

https://www.norfolklscb.org/people-working-with-children/how-to-raise-a-concern/local-authority-designated-officer-lado/

We are committed to reviewing our policy and good practice annually.

This policy was last reviewed on 08/10/2022

Name: Jayne King

Job Title: Dance school principal

Signature: J. J. King

ADDITIONAL MEASURES STILL IN PLACE AT THE STUDIO DUE TO COVID:

* ONE WAY SYSTEM IN OPERATION FOR ENTERING & LEAVING THE BUILDING
* HAND SANITISER POINTS AT ENTRANCE & EXIT, AS WELL AS IN TOILETS
* CHANGING ROOM NOT IN USE, AS IT IS A NARROW SPACE
* STUDIO WINDOWS OPEN AS OFTEN AS POSSIBLE TO ENSURE GOOD VENTILATION
* FREQUENT CLEANING OF HIGH CONTACT POINTS

THESE MEASURES WILL REMAIN IN PLACE UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE