

# Dance Collective Safeguarding & Child Protection Policy 2026–2027

## Introduction

Our dance school is committed to safeguarding the welfare and protecting the rights of all children and young people in our care. We strive to create a safe, inclusive, and supportive environment where every child can thrive, learn, and grow. This policy applies to all, staff, volunteers, and any other individuals connected to our school, ensuring consistent standards of safety and respect.

## Safeguarding Responsibilities

All staff members share responsibility for implementing this policy and maintaining a safe environment. Staff, and volunteers will receive appropriate child protection training and remain informed of their duties. The designated safeguarding lead (DSL) will oversee the implementation of procedures and act as the point of contact for all child protection concerns.

## Code of Conduct

All individuals associated with the dance school are expected to follow our Code of Conduct, modelling respectful, safe, and professional behaviour at all times. Abuse, exploitation, harassment, or any inappropriate behaviour toward children is strictly prohibited. Positive, respectful relationships will be encouraged, with clear and appropriate boundaries between staff, and students.

## Physical Contact in Teaching

Dance is a physical art form, and at times teachers may need to use physical contact to safely demonstrate or correct technique. This may include lifting, adjusting alignment of legs, rib cage, hips, feet, hands, arms, or head, or moving a student for correct spacing relative to others. Physical contact will always be explained in advance, with the purpose clearly communicated to the student. It will be conducted with sensitivity, ensuring the student's comfort and consent, and will prioritise the safety, well-being, and dignity of the student at all times.

## Recruitment and Vetting

All staff, and volunteers working directly with children will undergo enhanced background checks, such as DBS checks, along with reference verification. Proof of identity and relevant qualifications will be required for all team members. Only individuals who meet our safeguarding standards will be approved to work with children.

## Reporting and Responding to Concerns

A clear and confidential reporting process is in place for any safeguarding concerns. All concerns will be taken seriously and addressed promptly in line with established procedures. The school will fully cooperate with relevant authorities, including child protection services, when required. Support will be provided to any child or family involved in a safeguarding matter.

## Child Participation and Empowerment

Children will be encouraged to voice their opinions, concerns, and ideas in a safe, respectful environment. Student feedback will be valued in shaping dance activities, performances, and events. We aim to empower children to recognise and speak up if something makes them uncomfortable.

## Confidentiality and Information Sharing

All safeguarding matters will be handled sensitively and confidentially, in accordance with applicable data protection laws. Information will be shared only on a need-to-know basis, except in cases where immediate action is needed to protect a child.

## Training and Awareness

Regular child protection training will be provided to all staff, and volunteers. All team members will be trained to recognise signs of abuse or neglect and to respond appropriately. Parents, guardians, and students will be informed of our safeguarding practices and encouraged to communicate openly with staff.

## Review and Monitoring

This policy will be reviewed annually, or sooner if legislation or best practices change. Feedback from students, parents, and staff will be used to strengthen our safeguarding procedures.

## Acknowledgment

By enrolling in our dance school for the 2026–2027 season, parents/guardians and students acknowledge their understanding of and agreement with this Child Protection Policy. Our shared commitment helps ensure a safe and positive environment for every child.