



SLH Dance Academy Child Protection Policy

Reviewed and Updated 20/08/2024

Policy Statement

SLH Dance Academy is fully committed to safeguarding the well-being of all its students involved in attending dance classes with us and we believe that no child or young person should be the subject of neglectful or abusive behaviour. Our policy applies to all Staff, Chaperones and Volunteers working within the school and all staff are expected to work within this policy to safeguard children (under the age of 18 years of age). Under no circumstances should any staff member or volunteer inflict physical or psychological harm on a child. We will promote and maintain the welfare of every child in our care and seek to protect them from harm regardless of race, age, disability, gender, sexual orientation, religious belief or any other form of identity or creed. We will create a safe and welcoming environment for all.

In accordance with the provisions of The Children Act 1989, the "welfare of children is paramount". This means that some of the usual considerations of confidentiality may be superseded by the need to protect children, young people and vulnerable adults.

Purpose of the Policy

The aim of the SLH Dance Academy Child Protection Policy is to promote good practice:

1. Providing children and young people with appropriate safety and protection whilst in the care of SLH Dance Academy.
2. Allow all staff /volunteers to make informed and confident responses to specific child protection issues.

To protect children and young people in our care, SLH Dance Academy will:

- Value and respect children and listen to what they have to say and treat everyone with respect and dignity.
- Ensure the welfare of each child is always put first and take responsibility for children and young people's safety when in our care.
- Not accept or condone bullying.
- Comply with health & safety legislations and ensure a safe environment is maintained. This includes ensuring fire exits are kept unlocked but any external doors are locked where required.
- Share our policy with all staff, volunteers, chaperones, parents and students and review it regularly.



- Ensure all required checks are made when hiring staff. All staff, volunteers and chaperones working closely with children within the school must hold a current DBS check and first aid training. Staff will be recruited based on their suitability, training and experience.

We will have an appropriate number of licensed chaperones and DBS checked helpers looking after pupils backstage at any of our productions in theatres and these will undergo specific training through the council.

- Provide appropriate training and support to all staff. All staff are to keep up to date with technical skills, qualifications and insurances related to the teaching of dance and safe practice.
- Ensure that one to one situations with a staff member and child are avoided but if it occurs with pre-arranged 1-1 coaching lessons parent permission is given.
- Provide enthusiastic and constructive feedback to pupils rather than negative criticism.
- Ensure children are never left unattended whilst in their care.
- Ensure children are released from classes into the care of an appropriate adult. If someone different is collecting the child to normal parent/guardians must provide SLH with the name of adult in advance. A password collection system can be used if preferred.
- Ensure parents/guardians are aware that they must supervise their children before and after classes at all times and collect them promptly from class.
- Ensure written permission is provided by a parent/guardian to any children in years 7 + 8 who are walking home alone.
- Recognise the developmental needs and capacity of young people and disabled adults avoiding excessive training or competition and will not push them against their will.
- Ensure all contact and medical details for every child is up to date and available for class teachers and chaperones when required and that a record will be kept of any injuries occurred along with treatment given.
- Ensure that if any form of manual/physical support is required, it should be provided openly and according to guidelines provided in the SLH Dance Academy Physical contact statement below.
- Seek permission from parents before taking images (photographs or film) of students during class and inform them how and where the images will be used.
- Report suspected neglect or abuse to the nominated member of staff (Sophie Huntley).
- Ensure all staff, volunteers and chaperones are aware of child protection issues, signs of abuse and take responsibility for referring any concerns to the principal (Sophie Huntley).

Physical Contact Statement

At times, it may be necessary for a teacher to make appropriate physical contact with a student to adjust their movements during class or support them with a skill. All genres of dance are very



physical in nature and require accuracy of limb placement to ensure correct posture and positioning to help prevent injury. Before any such contact is made verbal consent will be asked by the teacher.

Suspected abuse or neglect

Concerns regarding a child's welfare can be reported by Parents, Teachers, Friends, The child or young person. All allegations of neglect or abuse will be taken seriously. If a concern is reported directly by the child or young person we will not seek to disagree, ask probing or leading questions, or do anything else which may discourage them. We will make it clear that reported concerns cannot be kept confidential but will need to be shared with a nominated member of staff or external organisation. Parents or guardians will also be involved if appropriate.

Actions to be taken if child protection concerns are identified:

Early action is vital and if you suspect abuse then any concerns should be reported to the Designated Safeguard Leader, Sophie Huntley (School Principal) immediately. DO NOT DELAY!

Please discuss and seek advice from Sophie the Principal if you have suspicions of abuse. The principal will contact East Sussex Social Services Department with any concerns raised. Social Services Departments are responsible for investigating any concern and deciding on the next course of action.

Information will be handled on a need to know basis only.

Contact numbers:

Designated Safeguard Leader- Sophie Huntley 07539 215547

East Sussex Children Services-SPoA (Single Point of Advice) 01323 464222 – Out of Hours 01273 335906 or 01273 335905

ISTD (Dance Syllabus Governing Board)- Designated Safeguarding Officer Lead – Louise Molton - lmolton@istd.org or +44 (0)20 7377 1577

NSPCC 0808 800 5000

Childline 0800 1111

Police 999