



Child Safety & Protection Policy

The following policy aims to create a safe, supportive, and respectful environment for children and young people attending FGDA.

1. Introduction

Future Generation Dance Academy (FGDA) is committed to providing a safe and nurturing environment for all children and young people participating in our dance programs. Our goal is to ensure that every child is protected from harm and is treated with dignity and respect. This Child Safety and Protection Policy outlines the steps FGDA takes to prevent abuse, neglect, or exploitation, and to respond effectively to concerns or incidents of harm.

2. Scope

This policy applies to all staff, volunteers, contractors, and anyone involved in the delivery of services at FGDA, including dance instructors, administrative staff, and others working directly with children.

3. Core Principles

- **Zero Tolerance for Abuse:** FGDA has a strict zero-tolerance policy toward child abuse, whether physical, emotional, sexual, or neglect. Any form of abuse will not be tolerated and will be responded to immediately.
- **Respect and Dignity:** All children and young people have the right to be treated with respect and dignity at all times. Discriminatory or harmful behavior will not be tolerated.
- **Empowerment and Education:** We aim to empower children and young people by providing them with education about their rights and how to seek help if needed.
- **Promoting Well-being:** We are dedicated to promoting the health, well-being, and safety of all children and young people in our care.

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4. Responsibilities of Staff and Volunteers

- All staff and volunteers must undergo background checks and relevant child protection training before they are permitted to work with children.
- Staff and volunteers should always act in a professional manner, maintaining appropriate boundaries with children and young people.
- If staff or volunteers become aware of or suspect that a child is at risk of harm, they must report their concerns immediately to the designated Child Safety Officer (CSO).
- Staff and volunteers are encouraged to foster an environment where children feel comfortable discussing any concerns they may have.

5. Reporting Concerns

FGDA takes any concerns about the safety or well-being of children seriously. If a child or staff member feels that a child is at risk, the following steps should be followed:

- **Report to the Child Safety Officer (CSO):** All concerns must be reported directly to the CSO. The CSO is responsible for assessing the situation, documenting the concern, and making a decision on the necessary actions to take.
- **Confidentiality:** All reports will be handled with the utmost confidentiality. Information will only be shared on a need-to-know basis.
- **External Authorities:** If the concern involves a serious risk of harm, FGDA will contact the relevant local authorities (such as child protection services or law enforcement) as required by law.

6. Code of Conduct for Staff and Volunteers

FGDA staff and volunteers are expected to:

- Maintain a professional and respectful attitude toward all children, parents, and colleagues.
- Never engage in physical discipline or inappropriate physical contact with a child.
- Always have clear and transparent communication with children, parents, and other staff.
- Avoid being alone with a child in a private or isolated setting, unless absolutely necessary and in an area where others can observe.
- Respect children's boundaries and ensure that their dignity is upheld during all activities.

7. Safe Environment

FGDA is committed to ensuring that our facilities are safe for all participants. This includes:

- Regular checks to ensure that the physical environment (such as studios, changing rooms, and bathrooms) is free from hazards and provides a safe space for children.
- Ensuring that all dance equipment is properly maintained and safe for use.
- Providing clear guidelines on drop-off and pick-up procedures for children to ensure their safety when arriving or leaving the school.

8. Parental Involvement

FGDA values the involvement of parents and guardians in their children's dance education. We encourage open communication and collaboration to ensure the safety and well-being of all children. Parents are encouraged to:

- Discuss any concerns they may have about their child's safety or well-being with the Child Safety Officer.
- Ensure that emergency contact information is up-to-date and available to FGDA.
- Participate in any events or meetings related to child safety within the dance school.

9. Regular Review and Updates

This Child Safety and Protection Policy will be reviewed annually to ensure that it remains effective and in line with current legislation and best practices. Any changes or updates to the policy will be communicated to all staff, volunteers, and parents.

10. Contact Information

For any concerns related to child safety, please contact:

- **Child Safety Officer (CSO):** Breanne Elson
- **Email Address:** Futuregendance@hotmail.com

By following this policy, FGDA aims to provide a safe, supportive, and enjoyable environment where children can learn, grow, and thrive through dance. Thank you for your commitment to child safety at Future Generation Dance Academy.
