GLK GYMNASTICS SAFEGUARDING POLICY

2026-2027

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WORKING TOGETHER TO SAFEGUARD CHILDREN

GLK Gymnastics abides by the duty of care to safeguard and promote the welfare of children and young people and is committed to safeguarding practice that reflects statutory responsibilities, government guidance (including Keeping Children Safe in Education 2026 and Working Together to Safeguard Children 2026), and complies with best practice requirements.

PRINCIPLES

We recognise that the welfare of children is paramount in all the work we do and in all the decisions we take. All children, regardless of age, disability, gender reassignment, race, religion or belief, sex, or
sexual orientation, 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. Working in partnership with children, young people, their parents, carers and other agencies is essential in promoting young people's welfare.

PURPOSE

GLK will: - Protect children and young people who receive GLK Gymnastics services from harm, including children who use our services. Provide staff and volunteers, as well as children, young people and their families, with the overarching principles that guide our approach to child protection. Emphasise early intervention, protection from harm and promoting children's welfare.

DEFINITIONS

A child is defined in the Children Act 1989 as anyone who has not yet reached their 18th birthday, even if they are living independently, are a member of the armed forces or are in hospital. Categories of abuse include: physical, sexual, emotional, and neglect. Specific risks include bullying, cyberbullying, child sexual exploitation, child criminal exploitation, trafficking, domestic abuse, female genital mutilation, grooming, historical abuse, online abuse, misinformation, disinformation and conspiracy theories.

LEGAL FRAMEWORK

This policy is based on legislation, policy and guidance that seeks to protect children in England, including: - Keeping Children Safe in Education 2026 - Working Together to Safeguard Children - The Children Act 1989 & 2004 - The Prevent Duty (Counterterrorism and Security Act 2015)
GLK has arrangements that reflect the importance of safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people.

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TRAINING & AWARENESS

GLK ensures all staff undergo safeguarding and child protection training, including online safety, filtering, and monitoring responsibilities. Safeguarding training is provided at induction and refreshed regularly in line with current guidance and GLK's training requirements. Staff are also encouraged to complete relevant safeguarding training provided by recognised organisations and governing bodies. In line with May 2026 updates, GLK staff are encouraged to complete the Department for Education's free e-learning safeguarding modules for out-of-school providers. All employees working or volunteering with children must: - Understand safeguarding and their role. - Recognise and act on concerns. - Understand how to report safeguarding concerns. - Show dignity and respect when working with children. - Be familiar with the Safeguarding Policy.

ONLINE SAFETY

GLK promotes safe and responsible use of technology and recognises the risks children may face online, including misinformation, disinformation, extremist content and inappropriate online contact. GLK also recognises the DfE's 'Generative AI: product safety expectations' and will ensure responsible use of AI technologies. Children are not permitted to use mobile or smart technology while at GLK. Any phones handed to GLK staff are returned only at the end of sessions in the presence of parents, unless prior authorisation to walk home has been given.

SCHOOL PROVIDER RESPONSIBILITIES

As an external provider working within schools, GLK Gymnastics will:

- Follow the safeguarding and child protection procedures of the school or setting we are working in.
- Ensure all GLK staff working in schools have the appropriate safeguarding checks and training required for their role.
- Report any safeguarding concerns promptly to the school's Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL) and follow the school's reporting procedures.
- Maintain appropriate professional boundaries with pupils at all times.
- Work cooperatively with schools to support the safeguarding and welfare of children and young people.
- Provide any relevant safeguarding information requested by the school or setting.

IMPORTANT CONTACTS

Designated Safeguarding Lead Name: Joanne Kelly
Email: glkgymnastics@outlook.com Telephone: 07565 878908
Deputy Safeguarding Lead Name: Jessica Legge
Email: glkcoaching@hotmail.co.uk Telephone: 07708 744708
If you have a safeguarding concern, contact the DSL immediately on 07565878908
MASH: 0300 126 7000, Police: 999 (emergency), 101 (non-emergency) NSPCC : 08088005000