

CHILD PROTECTION & SAFEGUARDING POLICY

Infinity School of Dance is committed to ensuring safe environments for children and young people and believes that it is always unacceptable for a child or young person to experience abuse of any kind. We recognise our responsibility to safeguard the welfare of all children and young people, by a commitment to recommend best practice which protects them. This policy applies to all members of Infinity School of Dance, including teachers, paid staff, volunteers, students or anyone working on behalf of the school.

Designated Safeguarding Lead:

Asher Ludlam
Contact – 07807036012 / infinity_sod@hotmail.com

Teachers/Staff

Sophie Hunt, Sasha Ireson, Tally-Jo Mehmi, Rebecca Butler, Megan Lowe, Mollie Watson, Chloe Taylor. All teachers/staff hold Enhanced DBS Clearance, First Aid Qualification, Safeguarding Training.

Reporting concerns

If a child is suffering or at risk of suffering significant harm, Infinity School of Dance can share information with appropriate agencies or professionals without the child's or their parent's consent.

If a child is in immediate danger, Infinity School of Dance will call the police on 999.

If a child is **not** in immediate danger:

- Infinity School of Dance will follow all safeguarding policies and procedures as soon as possible and ensure all concerns are reported to the DSL – Asher Ludlam.
 1. **Contact your local child protection services.** Specific contact details can be found on the website for the local authority the child lives in.
 2. **Contact the police.** They will assess the situation and take the appropriate action to protect the child.
 3. **Contact the NSPCC Helpline** on [0808 800 5000](tel:08088005000) or by emailing help@nspcc.org.uk. Our trained professionals will talk through your concerns with you, give you expert advice and take action to protect the child as appropriate. This may include making a referral to the local authority.

We recognise that:

- The welfare of the child/young person is paramount.
- All children, regardless of age, disability, gender, racial heritage, religious belief, sexual orientation or identity, have the right to equal protection from all types of harm or abuse.

Please note that this policy is subject to change, and any updates will be communicated to students and parents in a timely manner. This document will be reviewed annually. If there are any issues or concerns, please speak to a member of staff.

- Working in partnership with children, young people, their parents, carers and other agencies is essential in promoting a young person's welfare.

The purpose of the policy:

- to provide protection for the children and young people who participate in dance classes and events organised and attended by Infinity School of Dance.
- to provide staff and volunteers with guidance on procedures they should adopt in the event that they suspect a child or young person may be experiencing, or be at risk of harm.

We will seek to safeguard children and young people by:

- valuing them, listening to and respecting them.
- adopting child protection guidelines through procedures and safe working practice for staff and volunteers.
- recruiting staff and volunteers safely, ensuring all necessary checks are made.
- sharing information about child protection and safe working practice with children, parents, staff and volunteers.
- sharing information about concerns with appropriate agencies and involving parents and children appropriately.
- providing effective management for staff and volunteers through supervision, support and training.

The safety of children and members of other vulnerable groups is paramount and all, without exception, have the right to protection from abuse. All suspicions and allegations of abuse will be taken seriously and responded to swiftly and appropriately, and all the school's staff and volunteers have a responsibility to report concerns.

Environment:

- Infinity School of Dance provides an environment in which children are safe, can learn and develop at their own pace and are aware that there are always adults in whom they can trust. All children will be treated equally and with respect and dignity and the welfare of each child will always be put first.
- Enthusiastic and constructive feedback will be given rather than negative criticism in all classes. Bullying will not be accepted or condoned and all staff/volunteers provide a positive role model for dealing with other people. Action will be taken to stop any inappropriate verbal or physical behaviour.
- An online register of every child involved with the school is retained at all classes alongside a contact name and emergency telephone number in case of emergencies. We take no responsibility for the supervision of unaccompanied minors/vulnerable adults outside of class times.

Venue:

- Upon collection at classes, children will only be dismissed to an appropriate and known adult. If collection arrangements change, the class teacher must be notified prior.
- Doors will be closed during classes, however not locked during classes. At no point should a doorstop be used to wedge the front door open. It is imperative that we are aware of who is accessing the building at all times.
- Emergency First Aid kits are available for use in each venue.

Please note that this policy is subject to change, and any updates will be communicated to students and parents in a timely manner. This document will be reviewed annually. If there are any issues or concerns, please speak to a member of staff.

Legislation supporting this policy

The Rehabilitation of Offenders Act 1974; The Children Act 1989; The Police Act 1997; The Data Protection Act 1998; The Human Rights Act 1998; The Protection of Children Act 1999; The Criminal Justice and Court Services Act 2000, The Children Act 2004. The Vulnerable Groups Act 2006.

SAFE TOUCH

Teaching dance is a physical activity and appropriate physical contact between students and teachers in class is essential to training. Teachers can make physical contact with a student to illustrate a concept or to adjust a student's alignment, especially with the younger students.

We recognise that such physical contact is a potentially complex area and we also fully recognise our responsibilities for safeguarding students and teachers and for protecting their welfare.

The following principles and procedures are in place to fulfil our obligations:

1. Contact by the teacher is made with particular awareness to the needs of each individual/to assist the student in correcting placement.
2. All teachers will treat any physical contact with due sensitivity and care and with due regard for the wishes of the student.
3. Contact will not involve force or the use of any instrument.
4. Teachers will be mindful of location and avoid situations where they are isolated with a student – all classes should be held in studios and performance areas with windows.
5. Students should be encouraged to discuss any worries with any member of staff.
6. Both students and teachers should feel free to report any concerns to Asher.

TOILET

We are fully committed to safeguarding and promoting the well-being of all students and staff/volunteers associated with us. Our staff will support your child's toileting needs; however we cannot assist with intimate care.

Please read the below carefully and if your child cannot manage with this level of support, please do not leave them unattended at a class.

1. If your child is five years old or under, at their request, a staff member will accompany them to the toilet.
2. Our staff will not enter individual cubicles or the sink area, they will stand in the main doorway with their foot propping the door open.
3. Our staff will encourage young children NOT to lock the cubicle door.
4. Our staff will offer verbal reassurance and instruction.
5. Our staff will, whenever possible, provide a small stool, so younger children can get on the toilet themselves.
6. Our staff will, whenever possible, provide a small stool, so children can reach the sink to wash their hands.