

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 - Owner & Founder of Infinity School of Dance
Contact – 07807036012 / infinity_sod@hotmail.com

Reporting concerns

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

If a child is in immediate danger, ISOD will call the police on 999.

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

- ISOD 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.
- 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 Liberty 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: Infinity School of Dance, Above Units 11-12, Castle Street, Roseville, Coseley. WV14 9EP.

- Upon collection at classes (including any alternative venues), children will only be dismissed to an appropriate and known adult. If these collection arrangements change, the class teacher must be notified prior to the lesson.
- 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.

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.