



Child Protection Policy

The Rochester School of Dance believes that:

- The welfare of children is vital.
- All children, whatever their age, culture, disability, gender, language, racial origin, religious beliefs and/or sexual identity have the right to protection from abuse.
- All suspicions and allegations of abuse will be taken seriously and responded to swiftly and appropriately.

The purpose of this policy

- To protect children and young people who receive The Rochester School of Dance's services.
- To provide staff and volunteers with the over arching principles that guide our approach to safeguarding and child protection.

The Rochester School of Dance believes that a child or young person should never experience abuse of any kind. We have a responsibility to promote the welfare of all children and keep them safe. We are committed to practise in a way that protects them. A child is anyone under the age of 18 (Children Act 1989).

Policy Aims

The aim of this policy is to promote good practice:

- Providing dance lessons in a safe environment for all children.
- Allow all staff/volunteers to make informed and confident responses to specific child protection issues.

Promoting Good Practice

The Rochester School of Dance will encourage the following:

- Always working in an open environment (e.g. avoid private or unobserved situations and encouraging an open environment i.e. no secrets)
- Treating all children equally, and with respect and dignity
- Always putting the welfare of each child first, before winning or achieving goals
- Maintaining a safe and appropriate distance with dancers (e.g. it is not appropriate to have an intimate relationship with a child)
- Building balanced relationships based on mutual trust which empowers children to share in the decision making process
- Making dance fun, enjoyable and promoting fair play
- Ensuring that if any form of manual/physical support is required, it should be provided openly. Care is needed, as it is difficult to maintain hand positions when the child is constantly moving. Young people should always be consulted and their



agreement gained. Some parents are becoming increasingly sensitive about manual support and their views should always be carefully considered

- Keeping up to date with the technical skills, qualifications and insurance in dance
- Involving parents/carers wherever possible (e.g. for the responsibility of their children in the changing rooms). If groups have to be supervised in the changing rooms, always ensure parents/teachers/coaches/officials work in pairs
- Being an excellent role model – this includes not smoking or drinking alcohol in the company of young people
- Giving enthusiastic and constructive feedback rather than negative criticism
- Recognising the developments/ needs and capacity of young people – avoiding excessive training or competition and not pushing them against their will
- Keeping a written record of any injury that occurs, along with the details of any treatment given.

Recruitment and selecting staff and volunteers

The Rochester School of Dance recognises that anyone may have the potential to abuse children in some way and that all reasonable steps are taken to ensure that unsuitable people are prevented from working with children. When undertaking pre selection checks the following should be included:

- Consent should be obtained from an applicant to seek information from the Criminal Records Bureau (DBS CHECK)
- Evidence of identity (passport or driving licence with photo)
- Evidence of any license the role may require ie Chaperone license.

Teachers must also provide the following:

- Evidence of qualifications.

Responding to suspicions or allegations

It is not the responsibility of anyone working at The Rochester School of Dance in a paid or unpaid capacity to take responsibility or to decide whether or not child abuse has taken place. However, there is a responsibility to act on any concerns immediately through contact with the appropriate authorities.

Photography and Filming

- Any photography taken for or on behalf of The Rochester School of Dance for advertising or Social media purposes will always have full parental consent. Children will only ever be identified by their first name. No other personal details will ever be disclosed.

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