



Child protection and safeguarding policy

Dance Beat - recognises that when working with or having contact with children, teachers have a responsibility to promote and safeguard their welfare.

Staff will be recruited following the safer recruitment guidance and hold a valid DBS form.

Report any allegations or concerns to the **Designated safeguarding lead Laura Davies (school principal)**

Dance Beat will endeavor to:

- Have a recognition of abuse
- Respond to allegations of abuse or neglect, including those made against their Staff
- Maintain a safe environment

Dance Beat believes:

- The safety and welfare of children should always be of paramount importance, whatever the circumstances.
- That everyone with a role in working/volunteering with children has a responsibility to safeguard and promote a child's welfare particularly when it comes to protecting children from abuse.
- Special care is needed in dealing with children whose age, inexperience or physical state makes them particularly vulnerable to abuse.
- Sufficient training will be made available to staff and volunteers to provide them with the necessary knowledge to ensure safe care is always maintained.
- That staff should be trained in the basic principles of child protection.
- The teacher will act swiftly and appropriately to all suspicions or allegations of abuse and provide parents and children with the opportunity to voice any concerns they may have.

Prevent abuse by means of good practice – Guidelines for Dance Beat teachers:

- Staff will not offer transport to children in personal vehicles; give out their own or other teachers personal details, telephone number or e-mail contact to children.
- Will not invite children or young people to visit their home.
- Offer private lessons / coaching without the knowledge and agreement of the school principle/ owner.
- Staff will not be left alone for long periods with individual children or small groups.
- Adults who have not been DBS checked will not take children to the toilet or changing areas alone.

- Treat all young people and children equally, with respect and dignity.
- Keep a written record of any injury that occurs, along with the details of any treatment given.

Teachers will ensure staff are aware that they should not:

- Engage in rough, physical or sexually provocative games.
- Allow or engage in any form of inappropriate touching
- Allow children to use inappropriate language unchallenged
- Make sexually suggestive comments to a child, even in fun
- Reduce a child to tears as a form of control
- Allow allegations made by a child to go unchallenged, unrecorded or not acted upon
- Do things of a personal nature for children or disabled adults, that they can do for themselves
- Denying emergency first aid and or other emergency medical treatment.

The photography and filming of children:

Teacher's will take all reasonable measures to ensure that:

- The correct permissions are in place before taking or using images.
- Images are used appropriately and only illustrate positive contexts; beware of sensitive issues such as adoption, bullying, abuse, drugs etc.
- An image is not sent to a third party.
- An image is only used for the purposes stated on information.
- The photographer is credited where necessary.
- Images being used for the Dance – beat website. The images will be uploaded by our website service provider. These will be sent via drop box and will be deleted in the folder and by the service provider once the photos have been uploaded to the website. Parents will be informed.

Keeping yourself safe

Use of Mobile Phones

Mobile phones should not be used where possible for taking photos, but if photos are taken on your phone, these should be treated the same way as those taken on a camera. Teachers should ensure that staff working for them do not take photos of children on their own personal phones.

Use of online classes via zoom

We will provide pupils and parents with a guidance for parents/ carers and students wanting to join in with our online class, a using zoom policy will be provided to read and sign. The zoom code for each class will be different and will only be given to the parents of the children

that have signed it. Videos or photos will not be taken of the classes without the parent's/ guardian's permission. Only the teacher will be able to let pupils enter the zoom call via a waiting room. We ask that all under 16s are supervised during the session. Parents/guardians to provide the Dance-Beat teacher with their Zoom username before the class.

Nature Of Abuse and Making a Referral

There are four primary categories of child abuse. These are physical, sexual or emotional abuse and neglect.

Physical Abuse

Physical Abuse may involve hitting, shaking, throwing, poisoning, burning or scalding, drowning, suffocating, or otherwise causing physical harm to a child. Physical harm may also be caused when a parent or carer feigns the symptoms of, or deliberately causes ill health to, a child whom they are looking after. This situation is commonly describing using such terms as factitious illness by proxy or Munchausen's Syndrome by proxy (now known as Fabricated or Induced Illness).

Sexual Abuse

Sexual abuse involves forcing or enticing a child or young person to take part in sexual activities, whether or not the child is aware of what is happening. The activities may involve physical contact, including penetrative or non-penetrative acts. They may include non-contact activities, such as involving children in looking at pornographic material or watching sexual activities or encouraging children to behave in sexually inappropriate ways.

Emotional Abuse

Emotional abuse is the persistent emotional ill-treatment of a child such as to cause severe and persistent adverse effects on the child's emotional development. It may involve causing children frequently to feel frightened or in danger, or the exploitation or corruption of children. Some level of emotional abuse is involved in all types of ill-treatment of a child, though it may occur alone.

Neglect

Neglect is the persistent failure to meet a child's basic physical and psychological needs, likely to result in the serious impairment of the child's health or development. It may involve a parent or carer failing to provide adequate food, shelter and clothing, failing to protect a child from physical harm or danger, or the failure to ensure access to appropriate care or treatment. It may also include neglect of a child's basic emotional needs.

Disclosures

If a child / adult/ staff member does make a disclosure of abuse the following actions are to be taken:

- Listen to what you are being told, rather than directly ask questions.
- Never stop a child / adult, who is freely recalling significant events,
- Make a note of the discussion, taking care to record the time, setting and other people present, as well as a record of what was said.
- Try to record verbatim what is said about the abuse.
- Record any subsequent events and actions.

- Explain that you have a responsibility for their safety and therefore must tell somebody in authority.

Information Required when Making a Referral

It is important to have as much accurate information as possible and for you to have thought through the reasons for your concerns. You will be asked for the following information - the lack of availability of all, or any, of it should not delay making the referral.

Factual Information

- Names and dates of birth or ages of family members.
- Home address.
- Ethnicity and any Disability issues.
- Names of anybody that you know who hold parental responsibility.
- Your involvement with the child.
- Are the child and/or their parent aware of the referral being made?

If you suspect that abuse may have taken place you must report concerns as soon as possible to the Designated safeguarding lead school principal Laura Davies, or in her absence

Hertfordshire County Council, Children, and Schools & Families Department:
0300 1234 043

If an allegation against a staff member is reported, this must be reported to Laura Davies, who will then make a referral to the LADO.

Staff will refer to the ISTD Safeguarding Children and Safeguarding adults' policies for additional information and guidance.

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