

## Dance Fusion Safeguarding Policy 2018

The sole purpose of Dance Fusion is to educate children and adults in Tap, Modern, Ballet, Acrobatic Arts and Hip Hop Dance. The safety of our students is always a top priority and lessons take place in a safe and clean environment where correct technique is taught to limit any physical and mental harm to a student.

### 1. During Class - Physical Safety

The Teachers at Dance Fusion are fully qualified in their field and teach correct technique to limit the risk of physical injury to a child.

To limit physical harm during class children are required to dance in correct clothing including appropriate footwear. Loose jewellery must be removed and hair tied back.

Mats are used in Acrobatic Arts classes to limit the risk of physical injury.

The teachers are First Aid trained and regularly update their training. Each teacher has access to a basic first aid kit either on the premises or upon their person. All accidents will be recorded in an Accident Book and an Accident Form given to the parent or guardian.

If an injury requires medical attention then the Emergency Services will be contacted along with the primary contact provided by the parent.

All allergies or medical issues must be made known by the parents via the Registration Form and the teachers informed of any changes.

### 2. Signs of Physical Abuse on children

Persistent signs of physical abuse must be reported to the teacher and recorded in writing. If a child wishes to disclose private information to the teacher, the teacher must listen and not ask leading questions. To ensure the child does not feel uncomfortable, a written record of the conversation should be made afterwards. If a child does not come forward about persistent injuries that are cause for concern, the teacher may quietly approach the child but must not ask any leading questions or force a confession. Such matters must be first presented to the parent if it is clear they are not involved. If the teacher suspects a parent/guardian maybe involved in causing persistent physical abuse to a child, then the police or social services may be contacted either for advice or to make a report.

### 3. Signs of Neglect

Persistent signs of neglect include, incorrect uniform or shoes, dirty uniform or outdoor clothes, children whose personal hygiene is not acceptable, constant late pick up or drop off (without a reason given), children who are incredibly underweight due to lack of food.

Firstly, question the child privately without asking leading questions. Secondly, we will approach the parent (it may be a misunderstanding) if things do not improve we will contact social services and inform them of our concerns.

### 4. Sexual abuse

If a student wishes to disclose information regarding sexual abuse or rape, it is the duty of the teacher to listen without judgment. As stated before it is best to obtain as much information as possible without asking leading questions or making the student feel uncomfortable. This is a very serious topic and the proper authorities should be informed. The parents should be involved unless it is apparent that a parent has caused the sexual abuse. If the teacher is unable to help, they will endeavour to provide the student with information about someone who can.

### 5. Leaving Class

A child will only be allowed to leave the class with a known parent or guardian unless the parent has given notice that a named individual is collecting their child. Children are to remain in the same room as their teacher until the parent, or named individual has arrived.

Any child who has not been collected will remain on the premises under their teacher's care until a parent or guardian arrives. If a parent is late every effort will be made to contact them or the emergency contact listed on the register.

If Parents wish their child to walk home then they are required to give permission to their dance teacher, to ensure the safety of that child.

**6. Bullying**

We do not tolerate bullying in any form at Dance Fusion, from either another student, a parent or the teachers. Bullying can affect mental wellbeing and our teachers do their upmost to dispel any sign of verbal or physical bullying in class.

Children who feel they are being bullied may talk to us confidentially. Minor incidents will be dealt with in a calm manner during class. Major incidents of bullying will be confidentially discussed with the parents of the child/children in question.

**7. Language**

The use of bad language and swearing is not permitted in class. Non-Syllabus music used by the teacher is checked for bad language, swear words and appropriateness of content before being played in class or in public performances.

**8. Social Media**

As outlined in our Privacy Policy we only share video/photographs of students on three social platforms, Instagram, Facebook and the Dance Fusion Website. Only those children with permission from parents will appear on social media posts. Any parents who wish to change these permissions have the right to do so.

**9. Equality for all**

At Dance Fusion we try our best to cater for all abilities, nationalities, religious beliefs, genders, sexual orientation and age groups. We do not discriminate according to any of the above reasons and endeavour to adapt lessons to suit the needs of every student so that they get the most out of their time with us.

We lead by example to be inclusive and expect the students to do likewise.

**10. Responding to concerns**

Any concerns regarding Safeguarding can be brought up with your child's teacher or relayed directly to me (Alex Robinson) if I do not teach your child. A written record of serious concerns will be made in cases where future reference is required.