



Shining Stars School of Dance & Performing Arts



Safeguarding children & young people policy

At **Shining Stars School of Dance & Performing Arts** we recognise that the welfare of children is of paramount importance. We have a responsibility to protect and safeguard the welfare of all children and young people we work with and have an explicit duty to do so under the Children Act 1989 and 2004 and the Education Act 2002.

A 'child' is anyone who has not yet reached their 18th birthday. The fact that a child has reached 16 years of age is living independently, in further education, or working does not change his/ her entitlement to services or protection as a child.

At **Shining Stars School of Dance & Performing Arts** we believe that all children without exception have the right to protection from abuse regardless of gender, ethnicity, disability, sexuality or beliefs and that no child, or group of children should be treated any less favourably than others in being able to access the services and support to meet their needs.

All staff and volunteers have a strict duty never to subject a child to any form of harm or abuse. Failure to adhere to these procedures will be treated as gross misconduct.

Children and their parents/ carers who attend **Shining Stars School of Dance & Performing Arts** may view our policy where appropriate and a copy will always be kept on sight at the Unit or can be accessed via our website : shiningstarsdanceschool.co.uk

Designated safeguarding lead:

The designated safeguarding person (DSP) within our organisation is Claire Beedles

As safeguarding lead they have completed additional training to fulfil this role:

- Safeguarding Children Level 1, 2, 3

The Designated Safeguarding Person will advise members of staff and visitors to be on best practice and expectations. They will be responsible for the monitoring and recording of any safeguarding concerns and for ensuring that all concerns are shared with the appropriate statutory authorities.

All staff and volunteers at **Shining Stars School of Dance & Performing Arts** should be made aware of this policy and should be able to demonstrate their roles and responsibilities for safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people, including how to raise concerns with both children's social care and the police. Staff and volunteers shall be made aware of this through receipt of a paper copy and advised where main copy is kept in the unit. Made aware when updated version is available.

Overview of responsibilities:

All staff and volunteers must report all concerns to the designated safeguarding lead at the nearest available opportunity.

It is the responsibility of all staff and volunteers at ***Shining Stars School of Dance & Performing Arts*** to take steps to protect children, to keep them safe from hazards and to take appropriate action in the event of an accident.

It is the responsibility of all staff and volunteers to take reasonable steps to protect children and young people from harm and abuse while in contact with our organisation and our staff and to report any incident of or suspicion of abuse to the Designated Safeguarding Person or in their absence to the appropriate statutory authority.

All staff working at ***Shining Stars School of Dance & Performing Arts*** who have contact with children and young people are required to hold a valid, clear DBS check.

Safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people means:

Protecting children from maltreatment, preventing impairment of a child's health or development, ensuring that children are growing up with the provision of safe and effective care and taking action to ensure that children have the best life chances.

At ***Shining Stars School of Dance & Performing Arts*** we will do this by:

- identifying and responding to concerns about a child or young person
- making sure that all staff and assistants have DBS clearance
- ensuring that staff and assistants respond appropriately should physical or mental abuse be discovered or disclosed
- treating all members of the school and staff equally with respect and dignity
- challenging unacceptable or bullying behaviour.
- recording any accidents or incidents
- providing a safe and happy dance environment
- all members will be taught by a qualified teacher
- supporting development through dance in a way that fosters a sense of belonging / sense of self/ sense of community/ sense of independence
- helping a pupil to adjust a position to correct them in their dance training and advising the pupil what the intention is and ensure they agree and do not show discomfort.
- assisting a child with dressing or visiting the toilet if the parent/carer is not present and the child is unable to do it for themselves.
- giving enthusiastic and constructive feedback
- supporting young people to communicate freely with us, supporting their communication methods, providing time and space to talk
- fostering an environment of trust and building appropriate professional relationships

Referring a concern and your DSP:

Our Designated safeguarding person will act on behalf of ***Shining Stars School of Dance & Performing Arts*** in referring concerns or allegations of harm to children's social care or the police as appropriate. If the designated safeguarding lead is in any doubt information should be shared with children's social care for a second opinion. It is not the role of the DSP to investigate only to collate information, clarify details of the concern and facilitate information sharing. In the absence of the DSP the individual who has the

concern is responsible for contacting children's social care and the information should be shared with the DSP retrospectively.

The contact number for children's social care is **Stockport Safeguarding Team** – Tel. 0161 217 6028 – Out of Hours Tel. 0161 718 2118

Allegations against staff members/ volunteers:

If any member of staff has concerns about another member of staff or volunteer at ***Shining Stars School of Dance & Performing Arts*** such as

- Believing they have behaved in a way that has harmed or may cause harm to a child
- Having possibly committed a criminal offence against or relating to a child
- Behaved toward a child in a way that indicates he/ she is unsuitable to work with children. (This could include both children within the work place, children within the community or their own children).

The allegation or concern should be reported to the manager with responsibility for dealing with allegations immediately. This is **Claire Beedles**.

Neither the member of staff who has raised the concern/ allegation nor the member of staff who is alleged against should be allowed to question children or be part of any further investigation.

The designated manager for **Shining Stars School of Dance & Performing Arts** will report the matter to the Local Authority designated Officer (LADO).

If an allegation or concern arises about a member of staff, outside of their work with children, and this may present a risk or harm to a child/ren for which that member of staff is responsible, the general principles outlined in this policy will still apply.

This policy will be reviewed annually.

May 2025

Date of last review.....

Signed..... *C H Beedles*..... (Designated Safeguarding Person)