



Safeguarding and Child Protection policy

The purpose and aim of this policy statement is:

- to protect children and young people under the age of 18 involved in any activity run by the Sevenoaks Entertainers from harm. This includes the children of adults who use our services.
- to provide staff and volunteers, as well as members, children/young people and their families, with the overarching principles that guide our approach to child protection. This policy applies to anyone working with or on behalf of Sevenoaks Entertainers, including the board of trustees, paid professionals, members and volunteers.

We believe that:

- children and young people should never experience abuse of any kind;
- we all have a responsibility to promote the welfare of all children and young people, to keep them safe and to practise in a way that protects them.

We recognise that:

- the welfare of children is paramount in all the work we do and in all the decisions we take;
- working in partnership with children, young people, their parents, carers and other agencies is essential in promoting young people's welfare;
- all children, regardless of age, disability, gender reassignment, race, religion or belief, sex, or sexual orientation have an equal right to protection from all types of harm or abuse;
- some children are additionally vulnerable because of the impact of previous experiences, their level of dependency, communication needs or other issues;
- extra safeguards may be needed to keep children who are additionally vulnerable safe from abuse.

We will seek to keep children and young people safe by:

- valuing, listening to and respecting them;
- appointing a nominated child protection lead for children and young people, as well as a deputy and a committee member for safeguarding;
- adopting child protection and safeguarding best practice through our policies, procedures and code of conduct for staff and volunteers;
- providing effective management for volunteers through support, training and quality assurance measures so that they know about and follow our policies, procedures and behaviour codes confidently and competently;
- recruiting and selecting volunteers safely, ensuring all necessary checks are made with Kent County Council;
- recording, storing and using information professionally and securely, in line with data protection legislation and guidance;
- sharing information about safeguarding and good practice with children and their families;



- making sure that children, young people and their families know where to go for help if they have a concern;
- using our procedures to manage any allegations against staff and volunteers appropriately;
- creating and maintaining an anti-bullying environment and ensuring that we have a policy and procedure to help us deal effectively with any bullying that does arise;
- ensuring that we have effective complaints measures in place;
- ensuring that we provide a safe physical environment for all members, staff and volunteers, by applying health and safety measures in accordance with the law and regulatory guidance;
- building a safeguarding culture where everyone treats each other with respect and are comfortable about sharing concerns.

Legal framework

This policy has been drawn up on the basis of legislation, policy and guidance that seeks to protect children in England. A summary of the key legislation and guidance is available from: www.nspcc.org.uk/childprotection

Supporting documents:

This policy statement should be read alongside our organisational policies, procedures, guidance and other related documents:

- Code of Conduct
- Recognising and responding to abuse and bullying
- Ensuring photographs and images of children are taken, stored and shared appropriately

Contact details:

Nominated child protection lead:

Name: Jamie Thomas

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Deputy child protection leads and committee members:

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Phone/email: 07736 048101 / Jessica@thedancestudio.biz

Name: Jenna Warner (Vice-Chair)

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NSPCC Helpline: 0808 800 5000

We are committed to reviewing our policy and good practice annually.
This policy was last reviewed on: 6th March 2024

Signed::

Date: 06/03/2024