



SAFEGUARDING POLICY

The Bucks School of Dance fully recognises its responsibilities for child protection.

Our policy applies to all staff, and volunteers working for the school. There are five main elements to our policy:

1. Ensuring we practice safe recruitment in checking the suitability of staff and volunteers to work with children.
2. Ensuring that the children and parents/guardians are aware of the procedure to follow regarding any safeguarding issues. The safeguarding officer is the Principal of the school, and should be contacted to report any such matters.
3. Developing and then implementing procedures for identifying and reporting cases, or suspected cases, of abuse.
4. Supporting pupils who have been abused in accordance with his/her agreed child protection plan.
5. Establishing a safe environment in which children can learn and develop.

We recognise that because of the day to day contact with children, the school staff are well placed to observe the outward signs of abuse, including self-harming and signs of anxiety. The school will therefore:

* Establish and maintain an environment where children feel secure, are encouraged to talk, and are listened to.

* Ensure children know that there are adults in the school whom they can approach if they are worried.

We will follow the procedures set out in the Code of Professional Conduct for Teachers of Dance.

- * Ensure all staff and volunteers understand their responsibilities in being alert to the signs of abuse and responsibility for referring any concerns to the designated senior person responsible for child protection.

- * Keep written records of concerns about children, even where there is no need to refer the matter immediately.

- * Ensure all safeguarding records are kept securely, separate from the main pupil file.

- * Develop and then follow procedures where an allegation is made against a member of staff or volunteer.

- * Ensure safe recruitment practices are always followed.

We recognise that children who are abused or witness violence may find it difficult to develop a sense of self worth. They may feel helplessness, humiliation and some sense of blame. The school may be the only stable, secure and predictable element in the lives of children at risk. When at the school their behaviour may be challenging and defiant or they may be withdrawn. The school will endeavour to support the pupil through:

- * The school ethos, which promotes a positive, supportive and secure environment and gives pupils a sense of being valued.

- * Uphold certain behavioural standards, outlined in our terms and conditions, which is aimed at all pupils, parents, guardians and staff and is also to support vulnerable pupils in the school. The school will ensure that the vulnerable pupil knows that some behaviour is unacceptable, but they are valued and not to be blamed for any abuse which has occurred.

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