



## **RL Dance Studios Safeguarding Policy**

### **The purpose of this policy statement is:**

- to protect children and young people who receive RL Dance Studios' services from harm. This includes the children of adults who use our services
- to provide staff and volunteers, as well as children and young people and their families, with the overarching principles that guide our approach to child protection.

This policy applies to anyone working on behalf of RL Dance Studios, including management, paid staff and volunteers.

This policy statement should be read alongside our organisational policies, procedures and guidance.

### **We believe that:**

- children and young people should never experience abuse of any kind
- we 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.
- adopting child protection and safeguarding best practice through our policies, procedures and code of conduct for staff and volunteers.
- developing and implementing an effective online safety policy and related procedures.
- providing effective management for staff and volunteers through supervision, support, training and quality assurance measures so that all staff and volunteers know about and follow our policies, procedures and behaviour codes.
- confidently and competently recruiting and selecting staff and volunteers safely, ensuring all necessary checks are made.
- recording and storing and using information professionally and securely, in line with data protection legislation and guidance.
- making sure that children, young people and their families know where to go for help if they have a concern.
- using our safeguarding and child protection procedures to share concerns and relevant information with agencies who need to know, and involving children, young people, parents, families and carers appropriately.
- 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 our children, young people, staff and volunteers, by applying health and safety measures in accordance with the law and regulatory guidance
- building a safeguarding culture where staff and volunteers, children, young people and their families, treat each other with respect and are comfortable about sharing concerns.

**Specific guidelines are listed below:**

RL Dance Studios (RLDS) is committed to safeguarding and protecting the welfare of all members of our studio. We take the following measures to help to protect the children under our care:

- Undertake appropriate checks for all members of staff and volunteers to ensure their suitability to work with children and young people. This must be done before they start teaching or are placed in a position of responsibility. Requests to view checks can be made to the school Principal.

- All staff are trained to be alert to signs of abuse and the course of action to take should they suspect abuse.
- Ensure the school's Health and Safety policy is implemented and enforced.

### **Concerns about members of the school community (staff, pupils and parents)**

- Any concerns about any member of the school must be brought to the attention of the Principal immediately.
- Where the concern is about the Principal, Children's Services should be contacted immediately.

### **Appropriate physical contact**

Teaching dance is a physical activity and a teacher will sometimes need to make physical contact with a student to show an idea or to correct the pupil's position. This can include but is not limited to:

- Lifting
- Adjusting arms, legs, rib cage, hips, feet, hands
- Moving one student in relation to another

Where contact is needed, we will remain sensitive to the pupil's wishes and put their welfare first. In all cases we will ask permission and say why and how we will be correcting the student's position before making any contact.

### **Supervision**

- Parents and guardians are not permitted in the room during lessons, except for classes where they are participating, during watching weeks or by agreement with the Principal and the teacher in charge.
- Arrangements are made for all teaching spaces to be viewed from outside of the room via windows and doorways.

### **Photography, Filming and Social Media**

Photographs and video footage taken by the school:

- Photographs and video footage taken by the school will only be used for marketing purposes and to celebrate achievement. They will only be used in an official school capacity (eg. school website, newsletters, promotional material and school social media accounts.)
- Permission will be obtained from the pupils, participants, parents and

guardians firstly, for the photograph or video footage to be taken and secondly, for the photograph or video footage to be reproduced.

- Permission is requested when pupils and participants commence classes with the school but parents or guardians may withdraw their permission at any stage.
- All pupils and participants featured in photographs or recordings must be appropriately dressed for the activity they are undertaking.
- Care needs to be taken with regard to the storage and dissemination of the photographs or video material.
- If photographs are published, no individual should be able to be identified by any attached data.

Photographs and video footage taken by the pupils, parents or guardians:


- Parents and guardians are permitted to take photographs and film during activities such as end of term watching week if photo permission has been given for all children in the class. We do not allow people to take photographs through doors or windows during classes and individuals who do so will be asked to remove the footage from their devices.
- Parents will be made aware of the school's policy with regards to photograph and videoing during such events and invited to make contact if they have concerns.
- Photographs and filming must only take place in the room of the main activity, and not in areas where pupils may be changing.
- Images of other children or other participants should not be placed on the internet or social media without the consent of the pupil's parents or guardians first being obtained.
- Pupils, participants, parents and guardians must be willing to delete images or recordings if requested to do so by another member of the school.

Nominated child protection lead

Name: Risa Larmand

Phone/email: 07830 185111, [risa@rldancestudios.com](mailto:risa@rldancestudios.com)

This policy was last reviewed on: 16<sup>th</sup> May 2024

Signed by: 

Name: Risa Larmand

Date: 16<sup>th</sup> May 2024