



## **Dance Trix Child Protection and Safeguarding Policy**

Under The Children Act 1989, which applies mainly to England and Wales; 'a child' is up to the age of 18 years. For child protection purposes, all of the four nations use an age band up to 18 years old. This can also be up to the age of 25 years if they are receiving help from Social Services or Education. Other relevant legislation includes the Children Act 2004 and the Children, Schools and Families Act 2010.

This policy should be read alongside all other Dance Trix Ltd policies and procedures. Dance Trix possesses public liability insurance for the protection of staff and students.

### **Safeguarding and Child Protection Leads**

Leanne Curry and Katie Rix (Principals)

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### **The Purpose of this Policy**

The purpose of the Dance Trix safeguarding policy is to ensure every child at our organisation is safe and protected from harm.

This means we will always work to:

- Protect children from maltreatment
- Prevent impairment of children's health or development
- Ensure that children are exposed to circumstances consistent with the provision of safe and effective care
- Take any necessary action to enable all children to have the best outcomes
- Ensure all Dance Trix representatives (including principals, volunteers and chaperones) are able to make informed and confident responses to specific protection issues of children or vulnerable adults.

### **The Dance Trix Ethos**

- We pride ourselves on the fun and friendly nature of our classes. We are inclusive and respect everyone's feelings and views. We believe in praise, recognition and providing opportunities in a safe environment.
- All suspicions and allegations of abuse will be taken seriously and responded to swiftly and appropriately by Dance Trix. All volunteers and chaperones have a responsibility to report concerns to the safeguarding leads, mentioned above.

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- We acknowledge that the welfare of children and vulnerable adults is vital and that, whatever their age, culture, disability, gender, language, racial origin, religious beliefs and/or sexual identity, they have the right to protection from abuse.

### **Child safety**

The safety of children during dance classes is of paramount importance. While children are being taught in the studio, they are under the care of one of the Dance Trix teachers. However, parents are reminded that Dance Trix are not responsible for the physical welfare of children before they enter the studio premises and after they have left (i.e in the car park area.) The same applies at external events and activities when children must be signed on and off the premises by a parent or guardian.

### **Promoting Good Practice**

*Dance Trix will encourage the following:*

- Working in an open environment (e.g. avoiding private or unobserved situations and encouraging an environment with no secrets).
- Treating all young people and vulnerable adults equally, with respect and dignity.
- Always putting the welfare of each young person first, before winning or achieving goals. Recognising the developments/ needs and capacity of young people and avoiding excessive training or competition.
- Maintaining a safe and appropriate distance with dancers and building balanced relationships based on mutual trust which empowers children.
- Making dance fun and enjoyable whilst also promoting fair play and inclusion.
- Ensuring that if any form of manual/physical support is required, it should be provided openly and appropriately. Young people should be consulted before physical contact and their agreement gained.
- Keeping up to date with the technical skills, relevant qualifications and insurance in dance.
- Involving only Enhanced DBS volunteers and licensed chaperones when required for the purposes of a performance.
- Keeping a written record of any injury that occurs, along with the details of any treatment given by trained first aiders.

*The below practices are not acceptable. Dance Trix representatives should never:*

- Engage in unnecessary rough or physical exercises
- Allow or engage in any form of inappropriate touching
- Allow children to use inappropriate language unchallenged
- Allow allegations made by a child to go unchallenged, unrecorded or not acted upon
- Do things of a personal nature for children that they are able to do for themselves.

### **Guidelines for use of photographic filming at dance events**



Upon joining Dance Trix, a registration form is completed by a parent/guardian so that if any kind of photographic material or video of your child is required e.g. DVD of a performance or for advertisement material, then parental permission will have already been granted or denied. Parents/guardians can amend the permissions on this form at any time. Those who have denied permission for photographs or filming are made aware that this can be challenging in certain situations i.e. the annual show, and this is discussed with them in more depth prior to these events.

Students/parents/carers are not allowed to record or take photos during group classes or performances without permission of all children and parent/guardians present.

### **Safe Recruiting**

Dance Trix recognises that anyone may have the potential to abuse children or young adults in some way and all reasonable steps are taken to ensure that unsuitable people are prevented from working with children.

We only have Enhanced DBS checked volunteers and licensed chaperones assisting with our classes and performances, having seen all of their relevant documents and being confident they are suitable for the role.

Anyone representing Dance Trix is made aware of our Child Protection and Safeguarding policy and the necessary procedures for reporting concerns.

### **Responding to suspicions or allegations of abuse**

It is not the responsibility of anyone working in Dance Trix in any capacity to take responsibility or to decide whether or not abuse towards children or young adults has taken place. However, there is a responsibility to act on any concerns through contact with the appropriate people and/or authorities.

Abuse is more commonly is categorised under the following forms:

- Physical abuse
- Emotional abuse
- Sexual Abuse
- Neglect

But can also include: child sexual exploitation, child trafficking, bullying, cyber bullying and grooming. More information can be found here: <https://www.nspcc.org.uk/what-is-child-abuse/types-of-abuse/>

Dance Trix will assure all representatives that it will fully support and protect anyone, who in good faith reports their concern, that a colleague is, or may be abusing a child or young person. When there is a complaint against anyone acting on behalf of Dance Trix, we acknowledge that there may be three types of investigation:



- A criminal investigation.
- A child protection investigation.
- A disciplinary or misconduct investigation.

(The results of the police and child protection investigation may well influence the disciplinary investigation.)

Any suspicion that a child or young adult has been abused by anyone, in any setting and any manner, should be taken seriously and reported to either of the principals (named as safeguarding leads above) who will take such steps as considered necessary to ensure the safety of the child in question and any other child who may be at risk.

This may include contacting The Essex Safeguarding Children Board or the emergency services if we believe there may be immediate risk to the child in question.

### **Bullying**

Bullying can include, but is not limited to:

- Physical pushing, kicking, hitting, pinching etc.
- Name-calling, sarcasm, spreading rumours, persistent teasing and emotional torment through ridicule, humiliation and the continual ignoring of individuals.
- Racial or Homophobic taunts, graffiti, gestures.
- Sexual comments and/or suggestions.
- Abusive messages or calls

Dance Trix will:

- Take all signs of bullying very seriously.
- Encourage all children to speak and share their concerns.
- Investigate all allegations and take action to ensure the victim is safe.
- Speak with the victim and the bully/ies separately and speak with parents/guardians of all involved parties.
- Reassure the victim that you can be trusted and will help them, although you cannot promise to tell no one else.
- Impose sanctions as necessary, which can involve exclusion from the school.
- Keep records of what is said (what happened by whom, when etc) and the action taken.

### **Changes to This Notice**

We may update this privacy notice from time to time. You are encouraged to regularly check for any updated version of this notice.

### **Contacting Us**

This policy can be found online at [www.dancetrix.co.uk](http://www.dancetrix.co.uk) or copies are available upon request. If you have any queries about this statement please contact the Principals by email to [dancetrix@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:dancetrix@yahoo.co.uk)