

TERESA BLEE DANCE

Child Protection Policy

Aims

1. To provide a safe and protected environment for the children to enjoy their dance activities.
2. To build the children's self-confidence and self-esteem with positive & constructive feedback rather than negative criticism.
3. Children's welfare will always be put first.
4. All children will be treated with respect and dignity what ever their age, disability, gender, language, racial origin, religious beliefs and or sexual identity.
5. Instances of bullying will not be accepted or condoned.
6. A register will be kept confidentially with the contact details of all the children for use in an emergency.
7. All suspicions and allegations of abuse will be taken seriously and responded to swiftly and appropriately.

The legal framework for this work is:

The Rehabilitation of Offenders Act 1974
The Child (Performances) Regulations 1968
The Children Act 1989
Human Rights Act 1998
Data Protection Act 1984
Protection of Children Act 1999

Child protection procedures for classes at all venues

1. Working in an open environment: our venues, due to their layout, give parents open views of classes. We are happy for parents to observe lessons and operate an open-door policy (complying with up to date government guidelines and advice).
2. Treating all young people equally and with respect and dignity.
3. Always putting the welfare of each individual first, before achieving goals.
4. Building balanced relationships based on mutual trust which empowers children to share in the decision-making process.
5. Making dance fun and enjoyable for all.
6. Giving enthusiastic, constructive feedback rather than negative criticism
7. Physical contact in the pursuit of training in regard to correction of physical faults may sometimes be necessary (complying with up to date government guidelines and advice). Such physical contact will be kept to a minimum and will always be appropriate to the situation. Such contact will never be against the child/young person's will.
8. All teachers will keep up to date with relevant courses for; teaching skills, syllabus requirements and first aid.
9. Involving parents/carers whenever possible. For example encouraging them to take responsibility for their children in the changing room (complying with up to date government guidelines and advice).
10. Teachers and assistants will always provide an example of good conduct and be excellent role models.

11. Ensuring procedures for recruitment and selection of staff are rigorous.

Photography

- We are aware some parents do not want photos/videos of their children being available to the public.
- Parents are asked to give written consent for photos/videos to be included in promotional material, on our own website or on social media.
- If parents request to record an open lesson we will get a verbal consent from the parents of the children who participate in the class.
- Photos or video recording may be used for training purposes. We will notify a class in advance if they will be involved.

Accidents & Emergencies

- Teachers will make a check of the hall and changing room areas before class commences. This is to ensure there are no safety hazards and the floor is in a suitable condition to be danced on.
- Teachers will take a register at the start of each lesson so they know exactly who is in their care in case of an emergency evacuation.
- Teachers will hold a confidential record of contact details for all the children attending lessons.
- Teachers will have a clear knowledge of emergency evacuation procedure, positions of fire extinguishers and first aid boxes. They will instruct the children accordingly.
- The teacher will be responsible for removing all the children in their care to a safe position. We ask that parents make their own way out and meet the children outside. This is especially important in venues where adults will need to exit a different way to the children (unless they are watching the lesson and complying with up to date government guidelines and advice).
- Teachers will hold current first aid certificates and insurance.
- Any injury will be recorded in the accident book and the parent or guardian will be notified and asked to sign the entry when they collect them.
- If the accident is more serious an ambulance will be called and the parents will be notified as soon as possible.
- A parent will be asked to remain in the under 8's children's lessons. This is to act as a second adult in the room in case of an accident or emergency and to comply with up to date government guidelines and advice.
- If a child is not collected they will remain with the teacher, watching the next class. This should not occur unless something unforeseen happens to the person collecting the child. If it is the end of the teaching session phone calls will be made to try and contact the parent. If this is unsuccessful arrangements may need to be made to take the child home, or to a relative.

Suspicion of abuse

- Any suspicion or disclosure of abuse needs to be brought to the attention of the principal. All information will be treated in a confidential manner and will be taken seriously.
- Where a child makes a disclosure, we will offer reassurance to the child, listen to the child and give reassurance that action will be taken. We will not question the child.

- Details of an allegation or reported incident will be recorded and kept confidential. Appropriate Child protection agencies will be contacted.
- It is not the teacher's job to decide if abuse has taken place. We can only record instances that cause concern and pass these worries on to a professional body if this is deemed necessary.
- Bullying will not be condoned in the lesson or changing room. We expect teachers, children & parents to treat each other with respect. Parents will be notified of any instances of bullying and any action taken.

Signature: 

Date policy adopted: 26 July 2021