Safeguarding Policy Statement

Strive Dance Academy and its volunteers are committed to ensuring safe environments for children and young people. We recognise our responsibility to safeguard the welfare of all children and young people, by a commitment to recommend best practice which protects them.

This policy applies to our paid staff, volunteers, students or anyone working on behalf of the dance school.

We recognise that:

- the welfare of the child/young person is paramount
- all children, regardless of age, disability, gender, racial heritage, religious belief, sexual orientation or identity, have the right to equal protection from all types of harm or abuse
- working in partnership with children, young people, their parents, carers and other agencies is essential in promoting young people's welfare

The purpose of the policy:

- to provide protection for the children and young people who participate in our classes, shows, productions, exams or any other activities
- to provide staff and volunteers with guidance on procedures they should adopt in the event that they suspect a child or young person may be experiencing, or be at risk of harm

We will seek to safeguard children and young people by:

- valuing them, listening to and respecting them
- adopting child protection guidelines through procedures and safe working practice for staff and volunteers
- recruiting staff and volunteers safely, ensuring all necessary checks are made
- sharing information about child protection and safe working practice with children, parents, staff and volunteers
- sharing information about concerns with agencies who need to know, and involving parents and children appropriately
- providing effective management for staff and volunteers through supervision, support and training

The dance school directors will review this policy each year or sooner in light of any changes in legislation or guidance. All changes will be communicated to our members with immediate effect.

All the teachers are DBS checked and fully insured. There will always be at least one member of staff on site who is First Aid Trained.

Safeguarding Policies

1. It is the policy of the school to provide efficient, up-to-date, enjoyable and safe instruction in dance to all pupils who enrol in the school or join in the classes or activities.

2. The premises and equipment will be checked regularly for any defects or faults that exist or may have developed which might present hazards to any attending the premises.

3. The premises are cleaned regularly to prevent any hazard to health from accumulated dirt or rubbish.

4. All instruction will be geared to the previous experience and abilities of the pupil(s) and no person will be required to perform movements beyond their intrinsic capabilities. Staff will be sensitive to all pupils' religious beliefs and culture.

5. Accident/Injury report forms are filled in where necessary and kept for reference.

6. No very young pupil will be allowed to leave the school premises until collected by a parent, guardian or other adult authorised to do so by a parent or guardian. A member of staff will remain on the premises until all pupils have left.

7. No pupil under age 16 will be driven home by a member of staff in his/her car without the permission of a parent or guardian or in the event of an emergency.

8. No child may be photographed or videoed without the consent of parent or guardian (agreed to on the registration documents).

9. Only suitably qualified persons will be contracted in a teaching capacity while any student engaged to assist with teaching will only work under the supervision of a qualified member of staff.

10. Teachers will avoid any unnecessary physical contact with pupils. However, parents should understand that some aspects of teaching involve some safe-touch contact (this is agreed to on our registrations forms).

11. The school principal ensures that she and the members of staff are properly covered against incidents involving public liability insurance.

12. No form of discrimination, by religion, colour, the child's background and so on will be tolerated in the school.

13. All staff and volunteers to keep the highest standards of instruction and behaviour.

14. If ANYONE suspects a child may be in harm/danger/unsafe – this must be reported to the DSL **immediately**. The children are ALWAYS priority.

Designated Safeguarding Lead: Becky Farrar 07749 979465
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Dates: 18th September 2025