DYNAMIC DANCE STUDIO

CHILD PROTECTION & SAFEGUARDING POLICY

Policy Owner: Dynamic Dance Studio
Senior Designated Safeguarding Lead: Lorna Digger
Policy Review Date: September 2026
Next Review: September 2027

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1. OUR COMMITMENT TO SAFEGUARDING

Dynamic Dance Studio is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of all children and young people who participate in our classes, teams, performances, competitions and other studio activities.

We believe:

- The welfare and safety of children is paramount.
- Every child has the right to be protected from abuse, neglect, bullying, exploitation and harm.
- Every child should be treated with dignity, respect and kindness.
- All children, regardless of age, disability, gender, culture, language, racial origin, religious beliefs or sexual identity, have the right to protection from harm.
- Children should be listened to and their views and feelings taken seriously.
- Concerns about a child's welfare should always be taken seriously and acted upon appropriately.
- The welfare of each child will always come before winning, competition results or achieving goals.
- Safeguarding is everyone's responsibility.

A child is defined as anyone under the age of 18.

Dynamic Dance Studio will take reasonable and appropriate steps to safeguard children in its care and will follow relevant safeguarding guidance and procedures.

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2. PURPOSE OF THIS POLICY

The purpose of this policy is to:

- Promote a safe, positive and inclusive environment for all children.
- Set clear expectations for staff, volunteers, dancers and parents/carers.
- Help staff recognise and respond appropriately to safeguarding concerns.
- Ensure children know who they can speak to if they are worried or upset.

- Provide clear procedures for reporting and responding to concerns.
- Promote good practice and prevent inappropriate behaviour.
- Ensure concerns are appropriately recorded and followed up.
- Provide a framework for responding to bullying, peer-on-peer behaviour and concerns affecting a child's emotional wellbeing.

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3. PROMOTING GOOD SAFEGUARDING PRACTICE

Dynamic Dance Studio expects all staff and volunteers to promote good safeguarding practice at all times.

This includes:

- Working in an open and observable environment wherever possible.
- Avoiding unnecessary situations where an adult is alone and unobserved with a child.
- Treating all children equally, with respect and dignity.
- Putting the welfare of each child before winning or achieving goals.
- Building appropriate, professional relationships based on trust and respect.
- Encouraging children to speak openly about concerns.
- Making dance enjoyable and promoting positive behaviour and teamwork.
- Providing enthusiastic and constructive feedback rather than negative criticism.
- Recognising that children may have different abilities, confidence levels, needs and circumstances.
- Supporting children when they are anxious, upset, injured or unable to participate.
- Never humiliating, shaming or deliberately embarrassing a child.
- Maintaining appropriate professional boundaries at all times.
- Keeping appropriate records of injuries, safeguarding concerns and relevant incidents.
- Keeping safeguarding knowledge, training and procedures up to date.
- Involving parents/carers appropriately in matters concerning their child.

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4. PHYSICAL CONTACT IN DANCE

Dance is a physical activity and, where necessary, teachers may need to make appropriate physical contact with a student to demonstrate, correct or assist with movement.

This may include:

- Adjusting arms, legs, feet, hands, hips or posture.
- Assisting with stretching.

- Supporting a dancer during a movement.
- Lifting where appropriate and where the teacher has the appropriate knowledge and ability.
- Moving one dancer in relation to another where necessary for teaching purposes.

Where physical contact is required:

- The teacher should explain what they are going to do and why wherever reasonably possible.
- Contact must be appropriate to the teaching activity.
- The child's dignity and comfort must be respected.
- A child's wishes should be considered wherever possible.
- Physical contact must never be sexual, inappropriate or unnecessary.
- Children should be encouraged to tell a member of staff if any contact makes them uncomfortable.

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5. BEHAVIOUR, BULLYING AND PEER RELATIONSHIPS

Dynamic Dance Studio is committed to ensuring that all children feel safe, included and valued within their classes and teams.

Bullying, teasing, exclusion, intimidation, name-calling, humiliation or other behaviour intended to make another child feel unwelcome, inadequate or unsafe will not be accepted.

Bullying may be verbal, physical, emotional, social or online.

Competitive dance can involve pressure, disappointment, excitement and heightened emotions. However, a child's ability, performance, competition result, participation, injury, anxiety or decision not to perform must never determine how they are treated by others.

The welfare and wellbeing of every child will always take priority over competition results or achievement.

Dynamic Dance Studio will:

- Take concerns about bullying or inappropriate peer behaviour seriously.
- Encourage children to speak to a trusted member of staff.
- Listen to children and take their concerns seriously.
- Record relevant concerns appropriately.
- Consider whether there is a wider pattern of behaviour rather than focusing only on an individual incident.
- Take reasonable steps to ensure children feel safe and included.
- Speak with children individually where appropriate.
- Communicate with parents/carers where appropriate.

- Take appropriate action in accordance with studio policies and safeguarding procedures.
- Review team dynamics and practices where concerns indicate that changes may be required.

A concern does not need to involve physical harm to be taken seriously. Behaviour which has a significant impact on a child's emotional wellbeing, confidence or sense of belonging should be considered appropriately.

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6. TEAM BEHAVIOUR AND COMPETITIVE ENVIRONMENTS

Dynamic Dance Studio recognises that competitive teams can create strong friendships and positive experiences, but can also create additional pressure.

Dancers are expected to:

- Treat teammates and staff with kindness and respect.
- Support and encourage one another.
- Respect differences in ability, confidence and experience.
- Avoid teasing, exclusion, name-calling, intimidation or negative comments.
- Never deliberately make another dancer feel unwelcome or inadequate.
- Speak to a teacher if something is upsetting or concerning.
- Understand that everyone has good days and difficult days.
- Support teammates through both successful and difficult experiences.

A dancer who is unable to perform because of illness, injury, anxiety, distress or another personal circumstance should be treated with compassion and respect.

No child should be made to feel that they have failed their teammates or are responsible for a team's result because they are unable to participate.

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7. EXPECTATIONS OF PARENTS AND CARERS

Parents and carers play an important role in maintaining a positive environment.

Parents/carers are expected to:

- Encourage and support all children.
- Communicate respectfully with staff, dancers and other parents.
- Avoid commenting on or discussing another child's performance, behaviour, personal circumstances or wellbeing.
- Avoid placing pressure or blame on an individual child in relation to a team's performance or result.

- Raise concerns directly with the appropriate member of staff or Designated Safeguarding Lead.
- Avoid discussing concerns about individual children in parent WhatsApp groups or other informal group forums.
- Respect the confidentiality and privacy of other children and families.
- Model the standards of behaviour and respect expected from the children.

Where concerns are raised, Dynamic Dance Studio will listen and respond appropriately. Parents/carers will not necessarily be provided with information about action taken in relation to another child or family, due to confidentiality.

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8. COMMUNICATION AND SOCIAL MEDIA

Parents/carers, dancers and staff should communicate respectfully when representing Dynamic Dance Studio.

Parent and team communication groups should be used for appropriate team information and updates.

Concerns regarding individual children, staff members or safeguarding matters should be raised directly with the studio rather than discussed in group chats.

Parents/carers and dancers should not share photographs, videos, personal information or comments about another child without appropriate consent.

Dynamic Dance Studio may restrict or manage group communication channels where necessary to maintain appropriate communication and protect the wellbeing and privacy of children and families.

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9. PHOTOGRAPHY AND FILMING

Photography and filming may take place at classes, performances and competitions.

Dynamic Dance Studio recognises that some children or families may not wish for images or videos to be taken or shared.

When joining Dynamic Dance Studio, parents/carers will be asked to provide consent regarding the use of photographs and videos for studio purposes, including social media.

Consent may be withdrawn at any time.

Photographs or videos must not be taken:

- In changing areas.

- In situations where children may reasonably expect privacy.
- Where appropriate consent has not been obtained.
- In a manner which compromises the dignity or safety of a child.

Parents/carers and students should not record classes or performances without permission from the teacher or studio.

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10. CHANGING ROOMS AND SUPERVISION

Dynamic Dance Studio will take reasonable steps to ensure children are appropriately supervised and protected when using changing areas.

Where supervision is required, appropriate arrangements will be made based on the age of the children, the circumstances and the number of staff available.

Adults should respect children's privacy and dignity at all times.

Children should not be photographed or filmed while changing.

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11. RECRUITMENT AND SAFER WORKING PRACTICES

Dynamic Dance Studio recognises that anyone working with children may potentially pose a safeguarding risk.

The studio will take reasonable steps to ensure that staff and volunteers are suitable to work with children.

Depending on the role, this may include:

- Appropriate DBS checks.
- Verification of identity.
- Appropriate references.
- Checking relevant qualifications and experience.
- Considering previous work with children.
- Appropriate safeguarding training.
- Ongoing monitoring of conduct and suitability.

DBS checks will be undertaken where required or appropriate for the role.

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12. RECOGNISING SAFEGUARDING CONCERNS

Safeguarding concerns may arise from:

- Something a child tells you.
- Something you observe.
- A change in a child's behaviour or presentation.
- Signs of bullying or exclusion.
- Concerns about a child's emotional wellbeing.
- Concerns about another adult's behaviour.
- Concerns about peer behaviour.
- Online behaviour or communications.
- Injuries or unexplained marks.
- Information provided by a parent/carer or another professional.

A concern does not need to be proven before it is reported.

It is not the responsibility of staff or volunteers to investigate or decide whether abuse has occurred.

Their responsibility is to recognise concerns, record relevant information and report the concern through the appropriate safeguarding procedure.

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13. RESPONDING TO A CHILD WHO SHARES A CONCERN

If a child tells a member of staff about something that has happened or that is worrying them:

- Listen calmly.
- Take the child seriously.
- Allow the child to speak in their own words.
- Do not promise confidentiality.
- Do not ask leading or investigative questions.
- Do not express disbelief or make assumptions.
- Reassure the child that they have done the right thing by speaking up.
- Explain that the information may need to be shared with someone who can help keep them safe.
- Record the information as soon as reasonably possible.
- Report the concern to a Designated Safeguarding Lead without delay.

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14. REPORTING SAFEGUARDING CONCERNS

Any safeguarding concern should be reported to a Designated Safeguarding Lead as soon as possible.

Staff and volunteers should not investigate concerns themselves.

The Designated Safeguarding Lead will consider the information provided and determine the appropriate next steps, which may include:

- Further internal safeguarding action.
- Contact with parents/carers where appropriate.
- Seeking advice from the relevant safeguarding professionals.
- Making a referral to children's social care or another appropriate agency.
- Contacting the police where necessary.
- Taking immediate action to protect a child where there is an urgent concern.

If a child is believed to be in immediate danger, emergency services should be contacted by calling 999.

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15. RECORDING SAFEGUARDING CONCERNS

Safeguarding concerns should be recorded accurately and objectively.

Records should include, where possible:

- The date and time of the concern.
- The name of the child.
- What was seen, heard or reported.
- The child's own words where relevant.
- Who was present.
- Actions taken.
- Who the concern was reported to.
- Any decisions made and the reasons for those decisions.
- Any further action required.

Records should be stored securely and shared only with those who need the information for safeguarding purposes.

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16. CONCERNS ABOUT STAFF OR VOLUNTEERS

Any concern or allegation that a member of staff or volunteer may have behaved inappropriately towards a child must be reported immediately to the Senior Designated Safeguarding Lead.

Where the concern relates to the Senior Designated Safeguarding Lead, the concern should be reported to another appropriate safeguarding professional or external authority.

The studio will take concerns about staff or volunteers seriously and will follow appropriate safeguarding procedures.

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17. BULLYING AND PEER-ON-PEER CONCERNS

Where bullying or inappropriate peer behaviour is reported, Dynamic Dance Studio will:

- Take the concern seriously.
- Listen to the child raising the concern.
- Establish the available facts without leading or unnecessarily questioning children.
- Record the concern.
- Consider the impact on the child.
- Consider whether there may be a wider pattern of behaviour.
- Put appropriate measures in place to support the child.
- Speak with relevant parents/carers where appropriate.
- Take proportionate action to address unacceptable behaviour.
- Continue to monitor the situation where necessary.

Children involved in inappropriate behaviour will also be supported to understand the impact of their behaviour and to make positive changes.

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18. CONCERNS

If you have a safeguarding concern about another person or yourself:

TAKE IT SERIOUSLY
ACT ON YOUR CONCERN
TELL A DESIGNATED SAFEGUARDING LEAD
DO NOT PROMISE CONFIDENTIALITY
DO NOT INVESTIGATE THE MATTER YOURSELF
DO NOT DISCUSS THE CONCERN WITH OTHERS UNNECESSARILY

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19. DESIGNATED SAFEGUARDING LEADS

Lorna Digger

Senior Designated Safeguarding Lead
Email: lorna@dynamicdancestudio.co.uk
Tel: 07702309489

Katie Lister

Designated Safeguarding Lead
Email: katie.lister@me.com
Tel: 07708710390

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20. RELATED POLICIES

This policy should be read alongside Dynamic Dance Studio's other relevant policies and procedures, including:

- Behaviour & Conduct Policy
- Anti-Bullying Policy
- Photography & Filming Policy
- Complaints Procedure
- Staff Code of Conduct
- Health & Safety Policy
- Social Media / Communication Policy

Where a concern relates to safeguarding, this Safeguarding Policy takes priority.

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21. POLICY REVIEW

This policy will be reviewed regularly and updated where necessary to reflect changes in legislation, guidance, studio practice or safeguarding arrangements.

Policy Owner: Lorna Digger
Role: Owner / Senior Designated Safeguarding Lead
Date of Review: September 2026
Next Review Date: September 2027