

Safeguarding and Child Protection Policy Statement

Gillian Easdale School of Dance
Designated Child Protection Officer: Rachael Walker

Purpose and Scope of this Policy Statement

At **Gillian Easdale School of Dance**, we are committed to providing a safe, inclusive, and supportive environment for all children and young people involved in our dance activities. Our goal is to nurture talent, creativity, and confidence through dance while promoting the physical and emotional safety of every student.

This policy statement aims:

- To protect children and young people who attend the Gillian Easdale School of Dance from harm.
- To provide guidance for staff, volunteers, students, and families about our approach to child protection and safeguarding.

This policy applies to all staff, including the principal, volunteers, guest teachers, chaperones, agency staff, and students on placement.

Legal Framework

This policy is based on legislation, policy, and guidance that seek to protect children in **Scotland**, including (but not limited to):

- Children and Young People (Scotland) Act 2014
- The Children (Scotland) Act 1995
- The Protection of Vulnerable Groups (Scotland) Act 2007
- National Guidance for Child Protection in Scotland 2021

More information can be found at: nspcc.org.uk/childprotection

Supporting Documents

This policy should be read alongside our school's safeguarding-related procedures and policies:

- Role description for the Designated Child Protection Officer
- Procedures for handling disclosures and safeguarding concerns
- Managing allegations against staff or volunteers
- Confidentiality, information sharing and record keeping
- Code of conduct for staff and volunteers
- Behaviour guidelines for children and young people
- Photography and video guidelines
- Safer recruitment policy
- Online safety and social media use policy
- Anti-bullying policy
- Complaints and whistleblowing procedure
- Health and safety procedures
- Staff training and supervision policy
- Supervision ratios for dance classes and events

Our Beliefs and Commitment

We believe that:

- Children and young people should never experience abuse of any kind.
- We have a responsibility to protect the welfare of all children and young people and to work in a way that protects them.

We recognise that:

- The welfare of the child is paramount.
 - All children, regardless of age, ability, gender identity, race, religion, sex or sexual orientation, have the right to equal protection from harm.
 - Some children are more vulnerable due to their experiences, communication needs, or additional needs and disabilities.
 - Building strong relationships with children, parents, and carers helps safeguard children.
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Our Safeguarding Actions

We will:

- Value, listen to, and respect children and young people.
- Appoint a Designated Child Protection Officer (DCPO) and deputy.
- Ensure all staff and volunteers follow child protection and safeguarding policies.
- Promote online safety for classes and communications.
- Provide regular training, supervision, and support to all staff.
- Follow safe recruitment practices and conduct PVG (Protecting Vulnerable Groups) checks.
- Share safeguarding information with families through welcome packs and our website.
- Encourage open communication and create an environment where concerns can be raised.
- Record and store safeguarding information securely and professionally.
- Respond promptly and appropriately to all concerns or allegations.
- Provide an anti-bullying culture within the school.
- Maintain safe and accessible physical spaces for classes and events.

- Review this policy annually and after any serious safeguarding incident.
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Key Safeguarding Contacts

Designated Child Protection Officer

Name: Rachael Walker

Email: gillianeasdaledanceschool@hotmail.com

NSPCC Helpline

0808 800 5000

This policy will be reviewed annually.

Date of last review: 1st August 2024

Signed: R.Walker

Role: Designated Child Protection Officer

Date: 20th August 2025