

Child Protection and Safeguarding Policy

Mid Wales Dance Academy Seniors

1. Policy Statement

The safety and wellbeing of all children and young people attending Mid Wales Dance Academy is our highest priority. All children and young people, regardless of gender, ethnicity, disability, sexuality, religion or belief, have the right to protection from harm, abuse, neglect and exploitation. We are committed to creating a safe, supportive environment where children can enjoy dance in a nurturing and professional setting.

2. Purpose of the Organisation

Mid Wales Dance Academy provides dance classes, workshops, and performance opportunities for children and young people aged 3 to 18.

3. Scope of this Policy

This policy applies to all staff, volunteers, freelance teachers, guest teachers, and anyone working on behalf of the Academy who has contact with children or young people.

4. Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL)

The Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL) is responsible for safeguarding and child protection at the school. They will handle all concerns or disclosures appropriately.

- **DSL:** Catharine (Katy) Sinnadurai
- **Contact:** seniors@mwda.co.uk
- **Deputy DSL:** Karen Stevens
- **Contact:** karenstevens74@hotmail.co.uk

5. Responsibilities of Staff and Volunteers

- All staff and volunteers must read and follow this policy.
- All concerns or suspicions of abuse must be reported to the DSL immediately.
- Staff must maintain appropriate boundaries and act as positive role models at all times.
- All staff and volunteers working with children are required to have an Enhanced DBS check and to complete basic safeguarding training.

6. Code of Conduct

- Any physical contact with children must be appropriate and necessary for the dance activity.
- Staff must never be alone with a child in an isolated space.
- Staff should avoid personal contact outside of the dance environment (e.g. social media, texting).
- Respectful language and encouragement should always be used.

7. Parents and Supervision

- Children under the age of 18 must be supervised by a parent/carer at all times when not in a scheduled class or rehearsal.
- Reception, changing areas and toilets are unsupervised and remain the responsibility of parents/carers outside of class times. Parents are asked not to leave their children unattended in these areas prior to classes.
- After classes, staff will remain with children until they are collected by their parent/guardian.
- Parents/guardians should inform staff in advance if someone other than the parent/guardian is collecting a child.

8. Online Safety

- If classes or communications occur online (e.g. Zoom or social media), safeguarding protocols must be followed.
- Parents must be present or aware when children are participating in online content.

9. Photography and Filming

- Photographs and videos may be taken by MWDA staff or approved professionals only and are for educational or promotional purposes.
- Parents/carers will be asked for consent at the time of registration.
If you do not wish your child to be photographed or filmed, please inform the Academy in writing.

10. Reporting Concerns

- Any concerns about a child's welfare or potential abuse must be reported immediately to the DSL.
- In an emergency, call 999.
- All concerns will be taken seriously and handled confidentially, following local safeguarding procedures.

11. Whistleblowing

If a staff member or volunteer has concerns about the behaviour or conduct of another adult within the school, they should report this to the DSL or an external agency without fear of reprisal.

12. Legal Framework

This policy is supported by the following key legislation and guidance:

- Children Act 1989 and 2004
- Working Together to Safeguard Children (2018)
- Keeping Children Safe in Education (2024)
- The Protection of Children Act 1999
- The Police Act 1997
- The Criminal Justice and Court Services Act 2000

13. Review

This policy will be reviewed annually or sooner if there are changes in legislation or guidance.

Contact for Safeguarding Concerns

Mid Wales Dance Academy Seniors

Email Senior School: seniors@mwda.co.uk

Please mark any safeguarding concerns **CONFIDENTIAL**.