

The Sjaan Dance Academy Child Protection Policy Reviewed August 2025

Sjaan Dance academy

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Introduction

SJAAN DANCE ACADEMY is fully committed to safeguarding the well-being of its students involved in attending dance classes. Our policy applies to all staff and Chaperones volunteers working in the school. All staff are expected to work within this policy to safeguard children (under the age of 18 years of age) attending classes, rehearsal, competitions and productions organised by the School.

Our Students start at 18 months old and Parents are to stay with the students

A child is defined as a person under the age of 18 (The Children Act 1989).

All children have the right to be safeguarded from harm and exploitation whatever their:

- Race
- Religion
- Gender
- Age
- Health or disability
- Ethnicity or first language

Statements about or allegations of abuse or neglect made by children must always be taken seriously.

Policy Aims

The aim SJAAN DANCE ACADEMY of Child Protection Policy is to promote good practice:

1. Providing children and young people with appropriate safety and protection whilst in the care of SJAAN DANCE ACADEMY.
2. Allow all staff /volunteers to make informed and confident responses to specific child protection issues.

Good Practice:

- Always working in a publically open environment when working with a child. One to one situations with staff member and child should be avoided, Unless this is a private lesson and when this is the case the studio door is open.
- Treating all children and young people equally, with respect and dignity.
- Always putting the welfare of each young person first.
- Never leave children unattended.
- Building balanced relationships based on mutual trust which empowers children to share in the decision-making process.
- Establishing a safe environment making Dance a fun, enjoyable and fair experience.
- Ensuring safe recruitment in checking the suitability of staff, volunteers and chaperones to work with children.
- All staff, volunteers and chaperones will be required to have Enhanced DBS and will be asked to take the East Sussex County Council chaperones licence
- Ensuring children have been released from activities into the care of an appropriate adult and collected from the premises. Unless agreed by the parent, written consent and are of secondary school age.
- Obtaining permission for the taking of film and photographs.
- Ensuring that if any form of manual/physical support is required, it should be provided openly and according to guidelines provided in SJAAN DANCE ACADEMY Physical Contact Statement.
 - Keeping up to date with technical skills, qualifications and insurances related to the teaching of dance. CPD will a must.
 - Giving enthusiastic and constructive feedback rather than negative criticism.
 - Recognising the developmental needs and capacity of young people and disabled adults avoiding excessive training or competition and not pushing them against their will.
 - Securing parental consent in writing to act in loco parentis, if the need arises to administer emergency first aid and/or other medical treatment. This is part of our class manager online admin.
- Keeping a written record of any injury that occurs, along with the details of any treatment given.
 - All staff, volunteers and chaperones must be made aware of child protection issues, signs of abuse and responsibility for referring any concerns to the principal.
- Parents and carers are expected to supervise their children when they are not in the studio and collect them promptly from class.

Social media

Students under 16 must not follow, friend, contact or privately message staff through personal social accounts or personal numbers. Staff must not follow, friend, contact or privately message students under 16. Staff must not snapchat or disappearing message applications to communicate with students. Parents must be the primary point of contact

Personal mobile numbers should not be exchanged with students. Academy communication should take place through approved channels involving parents and carers

Physical Contact Statement

At times, it may be necessary for a teacher to make appropriate physical contact with a student to adjust their movements during class. All genres of dance are very physical in nature and require accuracy of limb placement. This is to ensure correct posture, positioning and to prevent injury.

Actions to be taken if child protection concerns are identified:

Any concern should be notified to the school principal immediately. The principal will contact East Sussex Social Services Department with any concerns raised. Social Services Departments are responsible for investigating any concern and deciding on the course of action.

Contact numbers:

East Sussex Social Services 01323464222

NSPCC 0800 800 500

Childline 0800 1111

Ensure all staff and chaperone volunteers understand their responsibilities in being alert to the signs of abuse and responsibility for referring any concerns to the principal who is responsible for child protection