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Safeguarding and Child Protection Policy

Policy Statement

Bedford Academy of Dance (BAoD) has a 'duty of care' to provide a safe environment for and to promote the health and well-being of children, young people and adults at risk. We will take all reasonable steps to ensure that safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children, young people and adults at risk is embedded in our contact with them through the training and activities we provide.

It applies to all students and clients or anyone else who may be required to provide dance or support services on behalf of or in affiliation with the Bedford Academy of Dance.

We believe that:

- Children and young people should never experience abuse of any kind.
- We have a responsibility to promote the welfare of all children, young people and adults at risk, to keep them safe and to train in a way that protects them.

The purpose of this policy statement is:

- to protect children, young people and adults at risk who receive, Bedford Academy of Dance services, from harm.
- to provide staff and volunteers, as well as children, young people and their families, with the overarching principles that guide our approach to safe guarding and protection.

This policy applies to anyone working on behalf of the Bedford Academy of Dance, including Teaching Staff, volunteers, sessional workers, agency staff, students and consultants.

Safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children is defined as:

- protecting children/young people from maltreatment.
- preventing the impairment of children/young peoples' health or development.
- ensuring that children/young person's grow up in circumstances consistent with the provision of safe and effective care.
- taking action to enable all children/young people to have the best outcomes.

Legal Framework

This policy has been drawn up on the basis of legislation, policy and guidance that seeks to protect children, young people and adults at risk in England.

A summary of the key legislation:

DfE - Working Together to Safeguard Children 2018 (updated 2025)
Children Act 1989, which applies to England and Wales
Keeping Children Safe In Education (KCSIE) 2025



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We recognise that:

- the welfare of children and young people is paramount in all the work we do and in all the decisions we take, all children/young people, regardless of age, disability, gender reassignment, race, religion or belief, sex, or sexual orientation have an equal right to protection from all types of harm or abuse.
- some children/young people are additionally vulnerable because of the impact of previous experiences, their level of dependency, communication needs or other issues.
- working in partnership with children, young people, their parents, carers and other agencies is essential in promoting young people's welfare.

Code of Conduct

We will seek to keep children and young people safe by:

- valuing, listening to and respecting them.
- appointing a nominated child protection lead for children and young people.
- adopting child protection and safeguarding best practice through our policies, procedures and code of conduct for staff and volunteers.
- developing and implementing an effective online safety policy and related procedures.
- providing effective management for staff and volunteers through supervision, support, training and quality assurance measures so that all staff and volunteers know about and follow our policies, procedures and behaviour codes confidently and competently.
- recruiting and selecting staff and volunteers safely, ensuring all necessary checks are made.
- recording, storing and using information professionally and securely, in line with data protection legislation and guidance.
- sharing information about safeguarding and good practice with children and their families.
- making sure that children, young people and their families know where to go for help if they have a concern.
- using our procedures to manage any allegations against staff and volunteers appropriately.
- creating and maintaining a safe environment and ensuring that we have a policy and procedure to help us deal effectively with breach of safety that arise.
- ensuring that we have effective reporting measures in place.
- ensuring that we provide a safe physical environment for our children, young people, staff and volunteers, by applying health and safety measures in accordance with the law and regulatory guidance.
- building a safeguarding culture where staff and volunteers, children, young people and their families, treat each other with respect and are comfortable about sharing concerns.

Photography and filming of children, young people or adults at risk

In line with Section 6.3 of our Terms and Conditions, no filming or photography of children, young people or adults at risk will take place without gaining prior consent from the appropriate student, parent or guardian. The purposes for which any photographic images or film will be used should be clearly explained and outlined on the disclaimer document. All written consent obtained will be placed securely on file.



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Contact details:

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We are committed to reviewing our policy and good practice annually.

Signature:

Name: Hannah D'Arcy

Role: Principal

Date: 01/10/2025