

VBDance Child Protection Policy

Revised 27/10/10

Introduction:

VBDance has a duty of care to safeguard all children involved in its activities. All children have a right to protection, and those who may be particularly vulnerable must be taken into account. VBDance will ensure the safety and protection of all children involved in its activities through adherence to the Child Protection guidelines adopted by VBDance. This policy applies to all staff, volunteers and chaperones working within the school to safeguard children attending classes, rehearsals, festivals, productions, school trips and competitions.

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

Policy Aims

The aim of the VBDance Child Protection Policy is to promote good practice:

1. providing children and young people with appropriate safety and protection whilst in the care of VBDance.
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.
- 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 Criminal Records Bureau Clearance (CRB)
- Ensuring children have been released from activities into the care of an appropriate adult and collected from the premises.
- 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 the VBDance Physical Contact Statement.
- Keeping up to date with technical skills, qualifications and insurances related to the teaching of dance.
- 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.

- 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 (Victoria Bremner).
- Parents and carers are expected to supervise their children when they are not in the studio and collect them promptly from class.

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:

A member of staff will notify the school principal (Victoria Bremner) of any concerns immediately. The principal will contact West Sussex Social Services Department with any concerns raised. Social Services Departments are responsible for investigating any concerns and deciding on the course of action to be taken.

Every effort should be made to ensure confidentiality is maintained for all concerned. Information should be handled and disseminated on a need to know basis only. Information should be stored in a secure place, in line with data protection laws.

Contact Numbers:

West Sussex County Council Child Protection:	01243 642555
NSPCC:	0800 800 5000
Childline:	0800 1111