BE Performing Arts Child Protection and Safeguarding Policy

Introduction

BE Performing Arts is fully committed to safeguarding the welfare of all children and young people up to the age of 18. We recognise our responsibility to take all reasonable steps to promote safe practices and protect children and young people from harm, abuse, and exploitation.

We acknowledge our duty to respond appropriately to any allegations, reports, or suspicions of abuse. All staff and volunteers are expected to work collaboratively to foster an environment that embraces diversity, respects the rights of children, and protects vulnerable individuals.

This policy aligns with our legal obligations under the Children and Young Persons Act 1963, the Children (Performances and Activities) (England) Regulations 2014, the Children Act 1989, and "Working Together to Safeguard Children" 2018.

Policy Scope

This policy applies to all staff, volunteers, students, performers and any individual working on behalf of BE Performing Arts.

Policy Objectives

The purpose of this policy is to:

- Protect children and young people who participate in BE Performing Arts activities, including classes, performances, workshops, and other school-related events.
- Provide guidance to parents, staff, and volunteers regarding our approach to child protection and the steps they should take if they suspect a child or young person is experiencing, or is at risk of, harm.

Our Commitment

BE Performing Arts is committed to ensuring that:

- The safety and welfare of our students is paramount.
- All children, regardless of age, gender, sexuality, race, disability, educational background, or economic situation, have the right to be protected from abuse.
- We acknowledge that some children are more vulnerable due to previous experiences, their level of dependency, communication needs, or other personal factors.
- Any suspicions or allegations of abuse will be taken seriously and dealt with swiftly and appropriately.

Safeguarding Measures

We will seek to safeguard children and young people by:

- Ensuring that everyone has the right to perform.
- Treating all students and parents with respect and dignity.
- Prioritising the welfare of each child or young person.
- Providing constructive feedback to students, avoiding negative criticism.
- Valuing and listening to the views of our students.
- Promoting the physical, personal, and social benefits of dance.
- Ensuring all staff and volunteers aged 16+ who work with children undergo an Enhanced DBS Check.
- Ensuring all paid staff are fully insured.
- Rejecting bullying in any form.
- Ensuring that all adult members provide a positive role model.
- Addressing inappropriate behaviour immediately.
- Staying informed of changes in legislation and policies concerning child protection.
- Engaging in ongoing professional development and training.
- Keeping up-to-date contact and medical details for all children and young people.
- Ensuring all staff receive safeguarding training.

Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL)

BE Performing Arts has a designated Safeguarding Lead who ensures that the child protection policy is implemented and adhered to. The DSL is:

Kate Riseley

Contact: 07457 406415

Email: beperformingartsuk@gmail.com

Policy Implementation

In implementing this policy, BE Performing Arts will:

- Ensure that all staff and volunteers understand their legal and moral responsibility to protect children and young people from harm, abuse, and exploitation.
- Ensure that all staff and volunteers understand their duty to report any concerns about a child or young person, or a worker's conduct, to the Designated Safeguarding Lead.
- Ensure that the Designated Safeguarding Lead will refer any child protection concerns to the appropriate statutory agencies (i.e. Police or Children's Social Care).
- Ensure that children, young people, and parents are informed of who the Designated Safeguarding Lead is and know how to raise safeguarding concerns, with confidence that these will be taken seriously and acted upon.
- Ensure that all safeguarding practices are implemented consistently and equitably, in line with the safer working practice guidance.

Review and Communication

This policy will be reviewed annually or sooner if there are changes in legislation or safeguarding guidance. Any amendments will be communicated to all members.

Policy Approval

This policy was adopted by BE Performing Arts on 16/09/2024.

The next review date is 16/09/2025.

Signed on behalf of BE Performing Arts
Name of Signatories:

Liv Riseley:

Sara Tongue:

Role of Signatories: Managing Directors

This policy ensures that BE Performing Arts remains committed to providing a safe, inclusive, and supportive environment for all children and young people involved in our programmes and activities.

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