



CHILD PROTECTION POLICY

Orwell Dance is committed to ensuring safe environments for children and young people and believes that it is always unacceptable for a child or young person to experience abuse of any kind. We recognise our responsibility to safeguard the welfare of all children and young people, by a commitment to recommend best practice which protects them.

This policy applies to all members of Orwell Dance including teachers, paid staff, volunteers, students or anyone working on behalf of the school.

We recognise that:

- the welfare of the child/young person is paramount
- all children, regardless of age, disability, gender, racial heritage, religious belief, sexual orientation or identity, have the right to equal protection from all types of harm or abuse
- working in partnership with children, young people, their parents, carers and other agencies is essential in promoting young people's welfare.

The purpose of the policy:

- to provide protection for the children and young people who participate in dance classes and events organised by Orwell Dance
- to provide staff and volunteers with guidance on procedures they should adopt in the event that they suspect a child or young person may be experiencing, or be at risk of, harm

We will seek to safeguard children and young people by:

- valuing them, listening to and respecting them
- adopting child protection guidelines through procedures and safe working practice for staff and volunteers
- recruiting staff and volunteers safely, ensuring all necessary checks are made
- sharing information about child protection and safe working practice with children, parents, staff and volunteers
- sharing information about concerns with agencies who need to know, and involving parents and children appropriately
- providing effective management for staff and volunteers through supervision, support and training.

Orwell Dance will review this policy each year in August in line with Safe Network guidance or sooner in light of any changes in legislation or guidance.



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The safety of children and members of other vulnerable groups is paramount and all, without exception, have the right to protection from abuse. All suspicions and allegations of abuse will be taken seriously and responded to swiftly and appropriately, and all the schools staff and volunteers have a responsibility to report concerns.

PURPOSE AND FUNCTION OF ORWELL DANCE

The aim of Orwell Dance is to encourage a love of dance in response to music and to promote the development of good physical coordination and strength within the framework of sound technical training. Also, we aim to give pupils the experience of performance, which is the realisation of communication through dance. The school focuses on well-disciplined and professional classes with a happy and friendly atmosphere which helps to inspire all pupils to fulfil their individual potential.

SCHOOL ENVIRONMENT

Orwell Dance provides an environment in which children are safe, can learn and develop at their own pace and are aware that there are always adults in whom they can trust. All children will be treated equally and with respect and dignity and the welfare of each child will always be put first. Enthusiastic and constructive feedback will be given rather than negative criticism in all classes. Bullying will not be accepted or condoned and all staff/volunteers provide a positive role model for dealing with other people. Action will be taken to stop any inappropriate verbal or physical behaviour. We work with the venues we hire to provide a safe and secure environment and will endeavour to keep up to date with changes in legislation and policies for the protection of children and health and safety. It will hold a register of every child involved with the school and will retain a contact name and number close at hand in case of emergencies. We take no responsibility for the supervision of unaccompanied minors/vulnerable adults outside of class times.

APPLICATION OF POLICY

This policy relates to children under the age of 18 years and members of vulnerable groups of any age whose needs are identified to Orwell Dance. This should be done by contacting the address or telephone number of the school. In recognising the needs of children from ethnic groups and children with disabilities, the school actively seeks to meet those needs notified by parents/guardians/carers and/or teachers but must know beforehand in order to prepare support – or to let you know we are unable to help.

SCHOOL PERSONNEL

All teachers at Orwell Dance are qualified teaching members with the Royal Academy of Dance and/or the Imperial Society of Teachers of Dancing and have an enhanced Criminal Records Bureau Disclosure and, in the case of a problem, will be able to help (parents can advise their child that Orwell Dance teachers can be approached privately and discreetly). All problems will be taken seriously and will be documented and dated.

LEGISLATION SUPPORTING THIS POLICY

The Rehabilitation of Offenders Act 1974; The Children Act 1989; The Police Act 1997; The Data Protection Act 1998; The Human Rights Act 1998; The Protection of Children Act 1999; The Criminal Justice and Court Services Act 2000, The Children Act 2004. The Vulnerable Groups Act 2006.

POLICY REVIEW

Orwell Dance will constantly review their policy, revising and enhancing it as necessary. In doing this, they will look to the Royal Academy of Dance and Imperial Society of Teachers of Dancing for support and that body, in turn, will look to other agencies for evidence of good practice, most notably the Arts Council of England and NSPCC policy guidelines.

SCHOOL CONTACT

Miss K Mellors, 4 Finches House, Willowbourne, Fleet, Hampshire, GU51 5AG Telephone: 01252 810869