



Nova School of Dance Child Protection Policy

I / We recognise that we have an explicit duty to safeguard and protect children from abuse as defined in the Children Act 2004, the Education Act 2002 and the Safeguarding Vulnerable Groups Act 2006.

Nova School of Dance is fully committed to safeguarding the wellbeing of its students involved in attending its classes; where we aim to provide a happy and safe environment where children can learn to dance. Our policy applies to all staff, chaperones and volunteers working in the school. All staff are expected to work within this policy to safeguard all children (anyone under the age of 18 years) who attend classes, rehearsals, competitions, and productions organised by Nova School of Dance. Staff will act with integrity, treating children with respect, listening to their concerns, and acting upon them. Nova School of Dance's Code of Conduct commitment to Students and Parents will ensure that students will receive professional tuition from a qualified teacher with appropriate facilities following safe practice.

Underlying principles

All children deserve the opportunity to achieve their full potential and have the right to be safeguarded from harm and exploitation whatever their:

- Race, religion, first language or ethnicity
- Gender or sexuality
- Age
- Disability/health
- Location or placement
- Immigration/political status

Roles and responsibilities

- Establishing a safe environment in which children can learn and develop, whilst being valued and able to articulate their wishes and feelings in their preferred method of communication, in an atmosphere of acceptance and trust.
- Certifying safe recruitment in checking the suitability of staff and chaperone volunteers to work with children. All staff and chaperones will be required to have Criminal Records Bureau (CRB) clearance.
- We are committed to ensuring all staff, chaperones and volunteers understand their responsibilities in being alert to the signs of abuse and are aware of their responsibility for referring any concerns to Miss Natasha who is responsible for child protection. Miss Natasha will ensure annual child protection updates for all employed staff.
- Ensuring that parents understand the responsibility placed on the school and staff for child protection. Parents will be expected to provide supervision for their children when an authorised chaperone is not available.

Actions to be taken if Child Protection concerns are identified

Nova School of Dance principle Natasha Rose is specifically responsible for children and child protection. Miss Natasha is the Nova School of Dance Child Protection Officer and can be contacted on novaschoolofdance@gmail.com - Any concern should be notified to her attention immediately. She 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. Statements or allegations about abuse or neglect made by children must always be taken seriously. **Contact numbers: East Sussex Social Services 01273 482801, NSPCC 0800 800500, Childline 0800 1111**