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Child Protection Policy

“THE HAMILTON SCHOOL OF DANCE IS COMMITTED TO PROVIDING SAFE DANCE CLASSES AND PERFORMANCE OPPORTUNITIES FOR YOUNG PEOPLE AND ADULTS.”

Effective Date: 05/03/2021

The school is committed to ensuring safe environments for children and young people and believe 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 with a commitment to recommend best practice which protects them. This policy applies to our teachers, chaperone's and 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 attend classes within our school
- To provide teachers and chaperones 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, teachers and volunteers
- Sharing information about concerns with agencies who need to know, and involving parents and children appropriately
- Providing effective management for teachers and chaperones through supervision, support and training.

In the event of any concerns about the wellbeing of a child in our care:

- All staff will follow the procedures agreed with the Local Authority and in keeping with Government guidelines/law.
- The nominated member of staff must be informed immediately of any concern and they will lead our response to any concern.
- Mrs Anneliese Hamilton-Stevens is our nominated member of staff.
- If there is any allegation made concerning the nominated member of staff or others, then another member of the teaching faculty should be informed and they will assume the role of 'nominated member of staff' until the allegation has been investigated and fully resolved.

- Detailed records will be kept at every stage and in line with Data Protection Act. These will be kept safe where only nominated members of staff will have access.
- Outside agencies will be fully involved at appropriate stages, as required.

Legal Framework:

This policy has been drawn up on the basis of law and guidance that seeks to protect children, namely:

- Children Act 1989 - <http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/1989/41>
- United Convention of the Rights of the Child 1991 -
- Data Protection Act 1998 - <http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/1998/29/data.pdf>
- Sexual Offences Act 2003 - <http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2003/42/contents>
- Children Act 2004 - <http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2004/31/contents>
- Protection of Freedoms Act 2012 - <http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2012/9/contents>