

The McCarthy School of Dance

Child Protection Policy

The McCarthy School of Dance 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 practice and to protect children from harm, abuse and exploitation, and we acknowledge our responsibility to act appropriately to any allegations, reports or suspicions of abuse.

This policy has been drawn up following NSPCC guidelines and on the basis of legislation, policy and guidance that seeks to protect children in Scotland. The McCarthy School of Dance recognises its duty of care under the Children and Young People (Scotland) Act 2014, and the Protection of Children (Scotland) Act 2003.

The purpose of this policy is:

- to protect children and young people who use our services
- to provide parents, staff and volunteers with the overarching principles that guide our approach to child protection

This policy applies to anyone working on behalf of The McCarthy School of Dance, including principal teachers/owners, paid staff and volunteers.

We believe that:

- children and young people should never experience abuse of any kind
- we have a responsibility to promote the welfare of all children and young people, to keep them safe and to practise in a way that protects them

We recognise that:

- the welfare of the child is paramount
- all children, regardless of age, disability, gender reassignment, race, religion or belief, sex, or sexual orientation have a right to equal protection from all types of harm or abuse
- some children are additionally vulnerable because of the impact of previous experiences, their level of dependency, communication needs or other issues.
- working in partnership with children, young people, their parents, carers and other agencies is essential in promoting young people's welfare

We will seek to keep children and young people safe by:

- valuing, listening to and respecting them
- appointing a nominated child protection/safeguarding lead and a deputy
- reviewing/updating our child protection policy annually in accordance with any changes in legislation

- using safeguarding procedures to share concerns and relevant information with agencies who need to know, and involving children, young people, parents, families and carers appropriately
- creating and maintaining an anti-bullying environment and ensuring that we have a policy and procedure to help us deal effectively with any bullying that does arise
- recruiting staff and volunteers safely, ensuring all necessary checks are made
- providing effective management for staff and volunteers through supervision, support, training and quality assurance measures
- implementing a code of conduct for staff and volunteers
- using our procedures to manage any allegations against staff and volunteers appropriately
- recording and storing all contact and medical details for every child professionally and securely
- seeking permission from parents before taking images (photographs or film) of pupils and inform them how and where the images will be used

In implementing this policy, The McCarthy School of Dance will:

- ensure all staff and volunteers understand their legal and moral responsibility to protect children and young people from harm, abuse and exploitation
- ensure all staff and volunteers understand their duty to report concerns that arise about a child or young person, or a staff member's conduct towards a child or young person to the Nominated Child Protection Lead or Deputy

In responding to any incidents or concerns, The McCarthy School of Dance will:

- The Nominated Child Protection Lead will refer any child protection concerns to the Designated Child Protection Officer for the BATD (British Association of Teachers of Dancing, our professional body) and/or relevant child protection agencies (see contact details below)

Contact Details

Nominated Child Protection Lead

Claire McCarthy

themccarthyschoolofdance@yahoo.co.uk

07988 092919

Deputy Child Protection Lead

Jenny McCarthy

themccarthyschoolofdance@yahoo.co.uk

07800 736551

East Renfrewshire Council

Lead Child Protection Officer

publicprotectiontraining@eastrenfrewshire.gov.uk

0141 451 0755

Request for Assistance

0141 577 8300

Out of Hours

Glasgow and Partners Emergency Social Work Services

0399 343 1505

Police Scotland

Telephone 101 or 999 in an emergency.

NSPCC Helpline

0808 800 5000