

Any individuals or organisation working with children should be aware of Child Protection issues, as everybody has a responsibility for the safety of children and to work for the prevention of child abuse; categorised as physical, sexual and emotional or instances of neglect.

It is also the duty of care and responsibility of anybody providing activities for children to have procedures and safeguards in place, and to report any allegations or suspicions.

Leicestershire Arts Dance Activate is fully committed to safeguarding the wellbeing of all children and young people who participate in the programme as Dance Activate members. We recognise that child protection is an important issue and that we have a duty of care to ensure the safety of all the children and young people who take part.

Anyone who is involved should, at all times, show respect and understanding for children and young people's rights, safety and welfare, and conduct themselves in a way that reflects the values, principles and guidelines that are included in this child protection code of conduct for, volunteers, teachers and artists.

We are committed to creating an environment that enables our children and young people to learn and develop in a safe, understanding and encouraging environment and therefore request that everyone associated with us should help us to protect children by doing the same.

Child Protection Code of Conduct Policy

In this child protection Code of Conduct policy the welfare of our children and young people is of paramount importance. All children and young people, without exception, have the right to be protected from abuse regardless of gender, ethnicity, disability, sexuality or beliefs. There are four commonly recognised categories of child abuse:

- **Physical Abuse** – hurting or injuring a child, for example by hitting or shaking them. This category is also likely to include bullying.
- **Sexual abuse** – when an adult exploits their power, authority or position and uses a child to gratify their own needs.
- **Emotional abuse** – when a child is not given love, help and encouragement and is constantly derided, ridiculed or ignored. This also includes racially and sexually abusive remarks.
- **Neglect** – this usually means failing to meet children's basic needs such as food, warmth, adequate clothing, medical attention, etc. It could also mean failing to ensure that they are safe or exposing them to harm.

It is our policy that all of our teachers have been CRB checked and behave with the utmost professionalism in their relationship with Dance Activate children and young people members.

Teachers will have mutually respectful relationships with all children and young people and will not engage in any inappropriate physical or verbal interaction. From time to time it may be required to undertake tasks of a personal nature, such as help with dressing or visits to the toilet. In performing these tasks teachers must be responsive to the child's reactions, age and stage of development. Teachers must ensure that any such physical interaction is at the child's request, necessary and appropriate. Requests for personal privacy should be granted and Teachers must not undertake personal tasks that a child is capable of completing without help.

As director and founder Graham Fletcher is the person to whom all suspected cases of abuse should be reported. All concerns and allegations of abuse will be taken seriously and treated with the necessary confidentiality and responded to appropriately. This may require a referral to children's services and in emergencies, the Police. Dance Activate will keep an accurate record of child protection cases. We will then develop systems in the longer term to monitor and evaluate the effectiveness of procedures.