

Oris Dance

Child Protection & Safeguarding Policy

Introduction

Oris Dance (hereafter also referred to as We) are committed to and fully recognise our responsibilities to safeguard the welfare of all children, young people and any vulnerable adults who attend our classes, workshops, events, rehearsals and performances by protecting them from abuse and harm. All teachers and senior class assistants recognise that they are in a position of trust that requires behaviour to be in accordance with this policy.

If any parents/carers have any concerns or relevant information about their child's/any vulnerable adult's welfare, We must be informed. Miss Zoe has overall responsibility for safeguarding, child protection and welfare at Oris Dance.

Observation of this policy and compliance with safeguarding good practice is mandatory.

Delivery of safeguarding is co-ordinated by the Safeguarding Lead.

Our commitment

All of our teachers, and any senior class assistants commit to the following.

- Providing regular enhanced DBS certificates (over 18s only)
- Keeping First Aid qualifications renewed
- Completing our accident record book should an accident occur
- Completing regular safeguarding training and receiving child protection updates
- Complying with our own strategic and operational level processes
- Identifying and maintaining a safeguarding lead responsible for dealing with concerns
- We will be vigilant and recognise potential signs of abuse and report all concerns to our safeguarding lead within 24 hours of an incident/concern arising and where this is not possible, the strategic and operational level processes will be followed.
- All safeguarding incidents or allegations against a person in a position of trust will be referred to the Local Authority Designated Officer (LADO).
- Reporting concerns relating to a child or young person where that person may be at risk of significant harm, to the relevant agency, which may include but is not limited to the Department for Children and Young Peoples Services or the Police.
- Keeping sensitive information confidential and shared on a need-to-know basis in accordance with strategic and operational level processes.
- Establishing a safe environment where children and young people feel valued, secure, are listened to, and encouraged
- Displaying high moral and ethical standards

- Having an open line of communication with our dancers and their families, particularly regarding any concerns about well-being. All concerns will be taken seriously and listened to with support and without judgement.
- Maintaining a sense of fun, excitement, and enjoyment in our classes
- Instructing to the appropriate level, experience, and abilities of dancers
- Showing sensitivity to backgrounds, beliefs, cultures, disabilities
- Ensuring dancers are physically safe in terms of:
 1. the spaces in which our classes take place, and
 2. being taught safe methods in developing dance technique

Key Principles

The child, young person or vulnerable adult's welfare is and must always be the paramount consideration.

All people have a right to be protected regardless of their race, gender, sexual orientation, religion or belief, or age.

Ensuring that Oris Dance can provide good role models for our dancers.

Physical contact

Dance instruction sometimes involves some physical contact with both peers (i.e., when practicing partner work, acrobatic dance, lifts, etc.) and teachers, as correct alignment and positions are explained/demonstrated/corrected. It is our policy to limit physical contact between dancers and teachers, avoiding unnecessary physical contact and working in an open environment with the consent of the child or young person, avoiding private/unobserved situations.

Personal or intimate care will only be provided in an emergency.

Collecting your child

- In general, Children in year 6 and below will not be allowed to leave any premises without a parent/carer collecting them. A variation to this must be discussed and agreed with a teacher and recorded in writing.
- Any child in years 7 - 9 may leave a premises if we have parental/carer consent in writing, in advance.
- If your child is in year 10 or older and you **do not** consent to them leaving the premises without being collected, please advise us in writing.
- On registering with Oris Dance you are asked to provide the name of the person(s) who will collect your child from class. If someone different from those persons named will be picking up your child, even as a one-off, you must inform a teacher.

- If collecting your child/young person, you must do so as soon as practicable after the end time of their activity. Should 10 minutes have passed, a teacher will call the emergency contact numbers provided. If a child/young person has not been collected on time, a minimum of two staff and/or other responsible adult should wait at the venue until the parent/carer arrives. A child/young person should not be left alone with a teacher unless it is unavoidable.

Reviewed: May 2025

Next review date: May 2026