



SAFEGUARDING STATEMENT & REPORTING PROCEDURE

At Spirit Academy of Dance, the safety and wellbeing of every child and young person is our highest priority.

We are committed to providing a safe, positive and inclusive environment where every student feels respected, valued and able to enjoy dance free from harm.

Safeguarding is everyone's responsibility. Every member of staff, volunteer and helper has a duty to promote children's welfare and to act if they have concerns about a child's safety or wellbeing.

Our Commitment to Children

Spirit Academy is committed to:

- Providing a safe and welcoming environment for every child.
- Treating all children equally, regardless of age, gender, disability, race, religion or background.
- Creating an atmosphere where children feel listened to and respected.
- Recruiting suitable staff and volunteers through safer recruitment procedures where appropriate.
- Ensuring staff receive safeguarding training and understand their responsibilities.
- Maintaining appropriate DBS checks for relevant staff and volunteers.
- Responding to safeguarding concerns promptly, professionally and confidentially.
- Working with parents and external agencies where appropriate to safeguard children.

Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL)

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OLIVIA BLYTH (*Principal*)

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Telephone: 07460937869

Deputy Designated Safeguarding Lead

KATHRYN BLYTH

Email: kateblyth30@gmail.com

Telephone: 07903000334

Reporting a Concern

If you have any concern about the welfare or safety of a child attending Spirit Academy, no matter how small it may seem, please speak to our Designated Safeguarding Lead as soon as possible.

Concerns may include:

- A child disclosing abuse.
- Changes in behaviour or wellbeing.
- Concerns regarding another adult's behaviour.
- Bullying.
- Neglect.
- Online safety concerns.
- Any situation where a child may be at risk of harm.

You do **not** need proof before raising a concern.

It is always better to report something that turns out to be nothing than to ignore something important.

What Happens Next?

When a safeguarding concern is reported:

- The concern will be listened to carefully.
- Accurate records will be made.
- Information will only be shared with those who need to know.
- Appropriate advice may be sought from external safeguarding agencies.
- Where necessary, referrals will be made to Children's Social Care or the Police.

Spirit Academy always acts in the best interests of the child.

Confidentiality

Safeguarding concerns are treated sensitively and confidentially.

Information will only be shared where necessary to protect a child or where required by law.

We ask parents to respect the confidentiality of any safeguarding matters involving other children or families.

Parents' Role

Parents and carers can help us by:

- Keeping emergency contact details up to date.
- Informing us of any medical, behavioural or welfare concerns that may affect their child.
- Supporting safeguarding procedures where required.
- Encouraging children to speak to a trusted adult if they are worried.

Photography & Social Media

To protect all children:

- Parents must not photograph or film children other than their own unless permission has been given by the academy.
- Images shared by Spirit Academy are managed in accordance with our Photography & Privacy Policies.
- Parents should avoid sharing images of other children on social media without permission.

Visitors

All visitors to the academy should report to Reception upon arrival.

Visitors working with children will be supervised where appropriate and are expected to follow Spirit Academy's safeguarding procedures at all times.

If You Believe a Child Is in Immediate Danger

If you believe a child is at immediate risk of significant harm, contact the Police by dialling **999** before informing the academy.

Our Promise

Every child deserves to feel safe, supported and inspired.

At Spirit Academy, safeguarding is at the heart of everything we do. We are committed to maintaining the highest standards of child welfare so that every student can learn, grow and achieve in a safe and positive environment.