

Dance Maniax Child Protection Policy

Dance Maniax have a moral and legal obligation to ensure that, when given responsibility for children, all staff, chaperones, parents/legal guardians and volunteers accept their responsibilities to safeguard children from harm and abuse. This means to ensure that everyone follows procedures to protect children and report any concerns about their welfare to appropriate authorities.

There are three elements to our policy:-

- To protect children and young people who receive Dance Maniax services
- Procedures for identifying and reporting cases and suspected cases of abuse
- Awareness of the different forms of abuse and neglect

Dance Maniax believes that a child or young person 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. We are committed to practice in a way that protects them. We expect that all staff chaperones, parents/legal guardians and volunteers and anyone else that comes into contact with the children behave in an appropriate manner at all times, and remember that “the welfare of the child is paramount.”

Dance Maniax will therefore:-

- Act within the Childrens Act 1989 and 2004
- Act within The Children (Performances and Activities) (Wales) Regulations 2015.
- Establish and maintain an ethos where children feel welcome and familiar with their environment and are informed of personal (toilets, dressing rooms, etc.) and emergency arrangements (fire exits, meeting points etc.) and any Health and Safety Procedures (Dangerous equipment, First Aid etc.)
- Inform each child who the appropriate person or people are to speak to if they have any questions, problems or concerns.
- Ensure that all children are treated with respect and dignity and are treated as individuals and offered the equality of opportunities.
- Always work in an open environment (E.G. avoid private or unobserved situations and unnecessary physical contact with children) and involve/allow parents/chaperones wherever possible, to take responsibility for the child/children they are responsible for.
- Recognising the individual needs of the child. E.G. Recognise when a child may be tired and may need a break.
- Ensure that children are supervised appropriately.
- Ensure that all chaperones are registered with the local authority in which they reside and have an enhanced DBS Check
- Ensure all crew and staff coming into close contact with a child have a valid DBS check.

- Ensure that all staff and crew who don't necessarily have close contact with children but who are assisting in the production are aware of their conduct around children.

We Recognise That:

- The welfare of the child is paramount as enshrined in the Children Act 1989
- All children, regardless of age, disability, gender, racial heritage, religious belief, sexual orientation or identity, have a right to equal protection from all types of harm or abuse
- Some children are additionally vulnerable because of the impact of previous experience, their level of dependency, communication needs or other issues

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

- Valuing them, listening to and respecting them.
- Appointing a Designated Safeguarding Officer (DSO) for children and young people
- Adopting children protection and safeguarding practices through procedures and a code of conduct for staff and volunteers.
- Developing and implementing an effective e-safety policy and related procedures.
- Providing effective management for staff and volunteers through supervision, support, training and quality assurance measures.
- Recruiting staff and volunteers safely, ensuring all necessary checks are made.
- Recording and storing information professionally and securely, and sharing information about safeguarding and good practice with children, their families, staff and volunteers.
- Using our safeguarding procedures to share concerns and relevant information with agencies, who need to know, and involving children, young people, parents, families and carers appropriately.
- Using our procedures to manage any allegations against staff and volunteers 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 may arise
- Ensuring that we provide a safe physical environment for our children, young people, staff and volunteers, by applying health and safety measure in accordance with the law and regulatory guidance

Contact Details

Designated Safe Guarding Officer (DSO) – Amanda Evans 07714462685 manda100@hotmail.co.uk

We are committed to reviewing our policy and good practice annually.

This policy was last reviewed on 10/05/2023


