

Sarah Royle School of Dance

Child Protection Policy

(policy last reviewed January 2024)



Sarah Royle School Of Dance is committed to ensuring that those working with children and adults adopt the best practice to ensure the health, safety and welfare of the participants and staff.

The school will promote the highest standards of care for all members, staff and officials by:

- The adoption of the ISTD Health, Safety and Welfare Guidelines.
- The adoption of ISTD Guidelines for the Protection of Children and Vulnerable Adults.
- Ensuring that staff have an understanding in child protection and health, safety and welfare issues.
- Ensuring that all staff, volunteers and helpers have been screened to confirm their suitability to work with children. Where appropriate this will include Criminal Record Bureau disclosure.
- Ensuring that the best teaching practice guidelines are followed at all times.
- Ensuring that grievances or complaints are dealt with promptly and in accordance with grievance procedures.
- Having a low tolerance level to poor practice, bullying or any potential form of abuse.
- 1:1 lessons are not held at the school at any time, if this was the case due to another child becoming ill. The parent would sit in the same room during the lesson or sit outside the room with the door open.

Anti bullying policy statement

This Policy is based on the “KIDSCAPE” Anti-bullying Policy for Schools

Sarah Royle School Of Dance is committed to creating an environment where members feel they can work without threat, anxiety and fear. Bullying of any kind is NOT acceptable and should be shared with others. All members must understand that any incidents will be dealt with promptly and effectively.

What Is Bullying?

Bullying is the use of aggression with the intention of hurting another person. Bullying results in pain and distress to the victim.

Bullying can be:

- Emotional being unfriendly, excluding, tormenting (e.g. hiding books, threatening gestures)
- Physical pushing, kicking, hitting, punching or any use of violence
- Racist racial taunts, graffiti, gestures
- Sexual unwanted physical contact or sexually abusive comments because of, or focussing on the issue of sexuality
- Verbal name-calling, sarcasm, spreading rumours, teasing

Why is it Important to respond to Bullying?

Schools have a responsibility to respond promptly and effectively to issues of bullying. Any issues of bullying should be shared and reported to Welfare Officer.

Signs and Symptoms

Somebody may indicate by signs or behaviour that they are being bullied. We should be aware of these possible signs and that they should investigate if someone:

- doesn't want to come to their classes
- changes their usual routine
- becomes withdrawn anxious, or lacking in confidence
- starts stammering
- feels ill before coming to the studio
- comes home with clothes torn or property damaged
- has possessions go "missing"
- asks for money or starts stealing money
- has unexplained cuts or bruises
- becomes aggressive, disruptive or unreasonable
- is bullying other children or siblings
- stops eating
- is frightened to say what's wrong
- gives improbable excuses for any of the above

These signs and behaviours could indicate other problems, but bullying should be considered a possibility and should be investigated through the correct procedures.

Appropriate physical contact in lessons

Teaching dance is a physical activity and appropriate physical contact between students and instructors in class is essential to training. Instructors can ask for consent to make physical contact with a student to illustrate a concept or to adjust a student's alignment and posture.

Dance classes and acro (more specifically) often require adjusting of the ribcage, support on the lower back and legs and supporting the spine to assist with upper back posture. We may need to assist with hips, back and waist especially with younger students to help them to understand how to achieve the movements in safe and correct alignment

In choreographic teaching, instructors demonstrate positions and movements to the students by moving parts of the students' bodies and by moving dancers in relation to each other.

Sarah Royle School of Dance recognises its responsibilities for safeguarding students and instructors and for protecting their welfare.

The following principles and procedures are in place to fulfil the school's obligations:

- Contact by the instructor is made with awareness of the needs of each individual, to assist the dancer in correcting placement for their safety and understanding.
- All instructors will treat any physical contact with due sensitivity and care, and with due regard for the wishes of the student
- Contact will not involve force or the use of any instrument
- Students and parents are encouraged to discuss any worries with Sarah directly

- Both students and instructors should feel free to report any concerns to the principal, teachers or chaperones.