

Safeguarding Policy

This policy applies to all staff and volunteers working or volunteering at StageStruck Tongham & Farnham. It reflects current legislation, best practices and complies with government guidance.

The purpose of this policy is:

- to protect children and young people who receive classes at StageStruck Tongham & Farnham from harm. This includes the children and adults who use our school.
- to provide staff and volunteers, as well as children and young people and their families, with the principles that guide our approach to child protection. This policy applies to anyone working on behalf of StageStruck Tongham & Farnham, including paid staff, volunteers, sessional workers, and students.

Legal Framework:

This policy has been drawn up on the basis of the Safeguarding legislation framework listed below, these policies and guidance seek to protect children in England.

- The Children Act 1989
- The Children Act 2004
- Working together to Safeguard Children 2018
- Department for Education best practice guide (Child performance & activities licensing legislation in England) Feb 2015
- Children in Entertainment Handbook
- Guidance for safer working practice for adults who work with Children and young people Nov 2007

This can be summarised as:

- Protecting children from maltreatment
- Preventing impairment of children's health or development
- Ensuring that children are growing up in circumstances consistent with the provision of safe and effective care
- Taking action to enable all children to have the best outcomes

Safeguarding relates to a wide range of aspects of a child's life including:

- Health and safety
- Pupils' attendance and wellbeing
- Meeting the needs of pupils with medical conditions
- Safe use of images
- Safer recruitment and DBS checks
- First aid
- Equality and diversity

Safeguarding can involve a range of specific issues:

- Bullying including cyberbullying and prejudice-based bullying such as racist, disability, homophobic or transphobic abuse
- Child sexual exploitation
- Sexting
- Drug and substance misuse
- Gang and youth violence
- Domestic violence
- Fabricated or induced illness
- Faith abuse

- Mental health
- Private fostering
- Trafficking
- Emotional abuse
- Children missing education
- Child on child abuse and Online abuse

Our Aim:

- To ensure safe recruitment in checking the suitability of all staff and volunteers to work with children
- Support children in all areas of development in ways that will educate and instil security, confidence and independence, equipping them with the skills needed to keep them safe
- Raise awareness of both teaching and non-teaching staff of the need to safeguard children and their responsibilities in identifying and reporting possible cases of abuse, where necessary.
- Support pupils who have been victims of abuse in accordance with any agreed child protection plan in place
- Provide a safe environment in which children can learn and develop.
- Ensure good levels of communication between all members of staff and volunteers.

We believe that:

- Children and young people 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 and to practise in a way that protects them.

We recognise that:

- The welfare of children is paramount in all the work we do and in all the decisions we take
- Working in partnership with children, young people, their parents, carers and other agencies is essential in promoting young people's welfare
- All children, regardless of age, disability, gender reassignment, race, religion or belief, sex, or sexual orientation have an equal right to protection from all types of harm or abuse
- Some children are additionally vulnerable because of the impact of previous experiences, their level of dependency, communication needs or other issues - extra safeguards may be needed to keep children who are additionally vulnerable safe from abuse.

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

- Valuing, listening to and respecting them
- Appointing a Designated Safeguarding lead for children and young people
- Adopting child protection and safeguarding best practice through our policies, procedures and code of conduct for staff and volunteers
- Providing effective management for staff and volunteers through supervision, support, training and quality assurance measures so that all staff and volunteers know about and follow our policies, procedures and behaviour codes confidently and competently at all times.
- Recruiting and selecting staff and volunteers safely, ensuring all necessary checks are made
- Recording and storing and using information professionally and securely, in line with data protection legislation and guidance
- Sharing information about safeguarding and good practice with children and their families as required.
- Using our safeguarding and child protection procedures to share concerns and relevant information with agencies who need to know, and involving children, young people, parents, families and carers.
- Using our procedures to manage any allegations against staff and volunteers accordingly.
- Ensuring that we provide a safe physical environment for our children, young people, staff and volunteers, by applying health and safety measures in accordance with the law and regulatory guidance
- Building a safeguarding culture where staff and volunteers, children, young people and their families, treat each other with respect and are comfortable about sharing concerns.

The role of the Director


- To promote child protection and safeguarding as a priority.
- To support the designated safeguarding lead in logging and reporting child protection concerns.
- Ensure all recruitment is carried out appropriately.
- To deal with allegations of abuse which are made against staff or volunteers promptly.
- To provide an adequate form of monitoring children thought to be at risk.
- To emphasise and encourage the need for good levels of communication between all staff.

The role of the Designated Safeguarding Lead

- To raise the awareness of all staff, students and volunteers to the need for child protection and of their responsibilities in identifying and reporting possible cases of abuse.
- To provide an adequate form of monitoring children thought to be at risk.
- To emphasise and encourage the need for good levels of communication between all staff.
- To develop a structured internal procedure to be followed by all members of the dance school community in any cases of suspected abuse.
- To seek advice from and report cases to social care when appropriate.
- Promote early intervention by supporting staff to identify and report emerging problems and support staff in liaising with other agencies and setting up assessments as appropriate.

Director:

Name: Mrs Leanne Bowden

Signed: 


Date: 07/03/2025

Phone: 07850643247

Email: stagestrucktongham@outlook.com

Designated Safeguarding Lead:

Name: Mrs Julie Parratt

Signed: 

Date: 07/03/2025

Phone: 07729409662

Licensed Chaperones:

Leanne Bowden

Julie Parratt

Lisa New

Izabel Bowden

Holly Flanagan

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