

SAFEGUARDING POLICY

Safeguarding Policy for Dover Stage Festival

1. Introduction

Dover Stage Festival is dedicated to providing a safe and secure environment for all participants, adhering to the highest standards of safeguarding and child protection. This policy outlines our commitment to safeguarding, including specific provisions for chaperones and changing rooms, in compliance with UK legislation and best practices.

2. Scope

This policy applies to all individuals involved in Dover Stage Festival, including dancers, instructors, judges, volunteers, staff, parents/guardians, and spectators.

3. Legal Framework

Dover Stage Festival operates within the legal framework established by UK legislation, including but not limited to the Children Act 1989, Children Act 2004, and Safeguarding Vulnerable Groups Act 2006. We also adhere to statutory guidance such as Working Together to Safeguard Children (2018) and Keeping Children Safe in Education (2021).

4. Responsibilities

- **Organizers:** The organizers of Dover Stage Festival are responsible for implementing and enforcing this safeguarding policy. They shall ensure that adequate measures are in place to safeguard all participants, including the appointment of a designated safeguarding officer.
- **Designated Safeguarding Officer:** A designated safeguarding officer will be appointed to oversee safeguarding procedures, provide guidance and support, and ensure compliance with relevant legislation.
- **Chaperones:** Chaperones may be appointed to accompany and supervise young dancers, ensuring their safety and well-being during the competition.
- **Parents/Guardians:** Parents/guardians are responsible for the welfare of their children and should cooperate with organizers and chaperones to ensure their safety and supervision during the event.

5. Chaperones

- Chaperones may be appointed by parents/guardians to accompany young dancers to the competition venue and provide supervision throughout the event.
- Chaperones must undergo appropriate background checks and training in safeguarding procedures before being appointed.
- Chaperones should be easily identifiable and available to assist young dancers as needed.
- Chaperones should ensure that young dancers are adequately supervised at all times, including during rehearsals, performances, and breaks.

6. Changing Rooms

- Separate changing facilities will be provided for male and female participants, as well as separate facilities for adults and children where possible.
- Changing rooms will be monitored and supervised to prevent unauthorized access and ensure the safety and privacy of participants.
- Participants are encouraged to change quickly and discreetly to minimize the risk of exposure or inappropriate behavior.
- Any concerns or incidents in changing rooms should be reported to the designated safeguarding officer immediately for appropriate action.

7. Code of Conduct

- All participants, including dancers, staff, volunteers, and spectators, are expected to adhere to a code of conduct that promotes respect, dignity, and safety.
- Bullying, harassment, discrimination, or any form of abusive behavior will not be tolerated.
- Participants must respect personal boundaries and consent. Any physical contact must be appropriate and consensual.

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8. Reporting Procedure

- Any concerns or incidents of safeguarding issues must be reported to the designated safeguarding officer immediately.
- Reports will be handled confidentially and with sensitivity, following appropriate procedures for investigation and resolution.
- If a child or vulnerable adult is believed to be at immediate risk of harm, local authorities will be contacted without delay.

9. Training and Awareness

- All staff, volunteers, chaperones, and relevant stakeholders will receive training on safeguarding policies and procedures.
- Information about safeguarding will be communicated to participants, parents/guardians, and spectators through various channels, including the event website, emails, and information packs.

10. Review and Monitoring

- This safeguarding policy will be reviewed regularly to ensure its effectiveness and compliance with UK legislation and best practices.
- Feedback from participants, parents/guardians, and stakeholders will be considered in the review process.

11. Implementation

- This safeguarding policy will be implemented and enforced throughout the duration of Dover Stage Festival, with regular monitoring and evaluation of its effectiveness.

Name of Safeguarding Officer: To be appointed

Date of Policy Approval: 12th April 2024

Signature of Organizers: 