

SAFEGUARDING CHILDREN POLICY

for

AUDACITY EVENTS LIMITED

REGISTERED IN ENGLAND AND WALES. COMPANY NO 16379521

6 GOUGH LANE

BURNTWOOD

STAFFORSHIRE

WS7 3RS

Introduction

AUDACITY EVENTS LIMITED (the Company) is a company run for the following purpose:
Dance Competitions

The Company has adopted this safeguarding children policy and expects every adult working or helping at Company to support it and comply with it. Consequently this policy shall apply to all staff, managers, trustees, directors, volunteers, students or anyone working on behalf of Company.

Purpose of the Policy

This policy is intended to protect children who receive any service from us, including those who are the children of adults who may receive services from us. Under this policy, the term children shall mean any person who is under eighteen years of age.

The Company believes that no child or young person should experience abuse or harm and is committed to the protection of children and young people. This policy is intended to provide guidance and overarching principles to those who represent us as volunteers or staff, to guide our approach to child protection and safeguarding.

The Risks to Children

Children can be vulnerable to different forms of abuse and harm. It is important to recognise that abuse and harm of children can cover a wide range of circumstances and behaviours. For example, children can be at risk of:

- physical or emotional abuse
- neglect
- sexual abuse
- female genital mutilation (FGM)
- grooming and exploitation

- trafficking and modern slavery
- exposure to or infliction of domestic abuse
- bullying or cyber bullying
- exposure to other inappropriate content or behaviour, such as violence or criminal behaviour
- self-harm
- physical harm when engaging with activities without adequate supervision

The causal factors of any such harm and/or abuse can also be wide-ranging. For example, children can be placed at risk by family members or by members of the community.

Safeguarding Principles

Safeguarding children from harm and abuse is an essential responsibility for our Company. We are committed to ensuring that any child who comes into contact with our services is properly safeguarded. Every person under this policy must ensure that they play an active role in ensuring that children are properly safeguarded.

Every person under this policy holds responsibility for:

- remaining alert and aware of possible safeguarding risks to children
- guarding children against harmful environments with appropriate actions (for example, adequate supervision or ensuring safe environments)
- taking positive steps to maintain the safety and wellbeing of children engaging with us as a Company
- reporting concerns expeditiously and appropriately, in line with child protection procedures
- understanding the duty to report specific concerns (and understanding how this interplays with confidentiality)
- challenging any inappropriate or harmful behaviour of any other adult and reporting this accordingly
- acting appropriately in the presence of children
- not taking any inappropriate risks
- not smoking, drinking or taking any form of illicit substances in the presence of children

Safeguarding Officer

Any question, report or concern in relation to the safeguarding of children should be shared with our Safeguarding Officer:

Name: Paul Nightingale

Email: info@audacityevents.co.uk

Confidentiality and Data Protection

All personal information we may process relating to children, shall be processed and stored in accordance with our data protection privacy policy.

Responding to a Safeguarding Concern

Where a child is at immediate risk of serious harm, any adult present should call 999. Thereafter, the Safeguarding Officer should be contacted as soon as is reasonably practicable.

Where there is a safeguarding concern but no immediate risk of serious harm, the adult who has heard or witnessed this concern should consult with the Safeguarding Officer as soon as practicable and by no later than the end of that same day.

Where any child makes a disclosure relating to harm or abuse to an adult, it is important to:

- listen calmly and carefully, showing that their views are taken seriously
- provide an appropriate and honest level of reassurance
- avoid interrogating children and asking probing, intrusive and/or leading questions
- avoid making false promises regarding secrets and confidentiality with the child (because any concern of abuse/harm must be shared with the Safeguarding Officer and any subsequent safeguarding referral)
- make a confidential written record of the discussion either during the discussion or immediately afterwards. The record should include the key details of the disclosure together with any relevant times, dates, places and people concerned. Audio and video recordings of children making disclosures should be avoided
- refer all relevant information to the Safeguarding Officer as soon as practicable afterwards, and by no later than the end of the day

Upon receipt of any safeguarding concern, the Safeguarding Officer shall consult with any other relevant persons and will make any appropriate referrals to the relevant authorities, such as the applicable Local Authority Children Services department.

Reporting concerns about other adults within the Company

Where any person has a concern regarding the conduct of an adult connected to the Company, which poses or may pose a safeguarding risk to children such as:

- harming a child either physically or emotionally
- exposing a child to behaviour which may cause physical or emotional harm
- engaging in criminal activity concerning a child

this must be raised in the first instance with the Safeguarding Officer (or where this is not appropriate, a different senior member of the organisation) so that the next appropriate steps may be agreed and actioned. We recognise that there could be circumstances where a

person may need to report a matter that has taken place in a setting outside of the persons engagement with the Company.

Usually, any appropriate steps following a safeguarding referral in respect of an individual connected to the Company will include either:

- further initial enquiries
- escalation to the applicable Local Authority Children Services department for assessment and/or the police for investigation
- instigation of any appropriate disciplinary, formal investigation processes and suspension of any person concerned within the Company
- a referral to the Disclosure and Barring Service, Disclosure Scotland or Access Northern Ireland, or any other relevant regulatory bodies

Any person within the Company who has allegations made against them shall be informed properly in a formal meeting of the particulars of the allegations and the relevant next steps which shall be taken. Such a meeting should ordinarily be held by the Safeguarding Officer. On certain occasions, such a meeting may not be convened until this has been approved by any authorities involved (such as the police or the relevant Local Authority).

Any person from within the Company who has allegations made against them shall be treated fairly. All enquires, investigations and decisions taken shall be just and fair, with the safety of any child concerned at the heart of the process.

Any person from within the Company who makes an allegation against another person from within the Company shall be listened to, taken seriously and shall be treated fairly and justly throughout the process of enquiries, investigations and decision making.

Chaperoning and Supervision at Events

All children attending our dance competitions must be accompanied by a responsible adult (e.g., parent, guardian, teacher, or licensed chaperone). Unaccompanied children may not be allowed to participate unless written arrangements are made in advance with the Safeguarding Officer.

Changing Facilities and Privacy

Adults should not use children's changing rooms unless required to assist a child, in which case consent must be provided. Privacy and supervision must be maintained at all times.

Drop-Off, Collection, and Transport

Parents or guardians must ensure children are signed in and out with their Dance Coach where appropriate. Children will only be released to a designated adult. Staff or volunteers

are not permitted to transport children without prior written agreement and risk assessment.

Solo Entrants and Independent Performers

Participants attending without a team must have emergency contact details on file and a named adult who is responsible for them during the event. Without these arrangements, participation may not be permitted.

Whistleblowing

Any individual can raise concerns confidentially. There will be no adverse consequences for those reporting safeguarding issues in good faith. Escalation routes outside the Company will also be available.

Inclusion and Accessibility

We will take reasonable steps to accommodate children with disabilities, neurodiverse needs, or other specific requirements. We strive to provide inclusive and safe spaces for all participants regardless of background, gender identity, or ability.

Online Safety and Social Media

Photos and videos may be taken for promotional use. We will not publish identifiable details without consent. By attending our event you consent to photographs and videos being taken and potentially used for promotional purposes. Parents and guardians must ensure they have permission before sharing any images of other children. No private messaging between staff and minors is permitted. Attendees should contact Audacity Events prior to an event if you do not consent to photographers or videos being taken and published.

Review and Approval

This Policy is approved and robustly endorsed by AUDACITY EVENTS LIMITED and is due for review every 12 MONTHS.

Signed: JADE TURNER

Date: 29.7.2025