

Dorset County Dance Festival 2025

5: Safeguarding & Child Protection Policy



Teachers and organisations must read and agree to our Safeguarding & Child Protection Policy prior to entering any routines. This must also be made accessible to families and parents of the entrants.

The British and International Federation of Festivals for Music, Dance and Speech work for amateur festivals everywhere to help create thousands of educational performance opportunities for children and young people each year.

The Federation, and our member Festivals, are committed to ensuring safe environments for children and young people and believe that it is always unacceptable for a child or young person to experience abuse of any kind. We recognise our responsibility to safeguard the welfare of all children and young people, by a commitment to recommend best practice which protects them.

This policy applies to our Board of Trustees, paid staff, Adjudicator members, volunteers, students or anyone working on behalf of the Federation and our member Festivals.

We recognise that:

- The welfare of the child/young person is paramount
- All children, regardless of age, disability, gender, racial heritage, religious belief, sexual orientation or identity, have the right to equal protection from all types of harm or abuse
- Working in partnership with children, young people, their parents, carers and other agencies is essential in promoting young people's welfare

The purpose of the policy:

- To provide protection for the children and young people who participate in our Festivals, including the children of Festival members
- To provide staff and volunteers with guidance on procedures they should adopt in the event that they suspect a child or young person may be experiencing, or be at risk of, harm

We will seek to safeguard children and young people by:

- Valuing them, listening to and respecting them
- Adopting child protection guidelines through procedures and safe working practice for staff and festival crew
- Recruiting staff and crew safely, ensuring all necessary checks are made
- Sharing information about child protection and safe working practice with children, parents, staff and crew
- Sharing information about concerns with agencies who need to know, and involving parents and children appropriately
- Providing effective management for staff and crew through supervision, support and training

The Federation will review this policy each year in November in line with NSPCC guidance, or sooner in light of any changes in legislation or guidance. All changes will be communicated to our member Festivals in time for the start of the new Festival year.

Delivered in partnership with NSPCC

The Federation and its member Festivals use the following policies and procedures to create Safer Festivals for everyone:

1. A single, definitive Child Protection Policy adopted by all Federation Festivals
2. One or more designated Festival Safeguarding Officers (FSO) appointed for each Federation Festival. For DCDF: Inga Adams, 07919998547.
3. Best practice advice and guidance via *NSPCC Safeguarding and Child Protection Standards for the Voluntary and Community Sector Children and Young People aged 0-18 2019* UK edition, with support and training for all Festival staff and crew. Including clear reporting procedures for anyone with a concern about a child
4. Appropriate recruitment and induction procedures for all new Festival crew responsible for providing safe environments for everyone attending/performing at a Federation Festival
5. All Festival crew are easily identifiable throughout the festival. All teachers/parents/guardians/carers are asked to report all incidents of any nature to any crew members. All reported incidents will be handled in accordance with the Safe Working Practice and Festival Child Protection best practice advice. In addition we will ensure the availability of a quiet area/room where concerns can be expressed in private
6. For the duration of a Festival all teachers/parents/guardians/carers are responsible for the continuous care and supervision of their own children/pupils. If they are unable to attend personally, they must delegate their responsibilities to an identified adult and ensure that their children/pupils are aware of the identity and name of the person responsible for their care. This includes supervision throughout all Festival venues, practice and changing areas that maybe provided
7. No unauthorised photography, audio or video recording of children and young people is allowed at our Festivals. Where parents/guardians/carers do not wish photos to be taken at all, please make this known to the crew prior to the event.
8. Some children and vulnerable adults may have specific needs in order to take part. If this is the case, we ask the responsible teachers/parents/guardians/carers to contact the Festival prior to arrival. The Festival actively seeks wherever possible to meet these needs, but must know beforehand in order to prepare support – or to advise that help cannot be provided on this occasion
9. The Festival's Child Protection Policy and approach to Creating Safer Festivals for Everyone is published explicitly in our programme. By completing and signing the entry form all parents/guardians/carers and teachers of entrants under 18 confirm that they give (or have obtained) the necessary consents for the entrants to take part in the Festival. Without consent the entry to the Festival cannot be accepted.

With very best wishes from all of the DCDF crew.