

Centre Stage

PERFORMING ARTS

Safeguarding Policy

At **Centre Stage Performing Arts**, we are devoted to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of every child and young person who attends our classes. We believe all students have the right to learn, grow, and express themselves in a safe, supportive, and encouraging environment. This policy outlines our commitment to protecting their wellbeing at all times.

We are committed to creating a positive atmosphere where children feel safe and valued. We work to protect children from harm, abuse, neglect, and exploitation, and we respond promptly and appropriately to any concerns raised. We also work in partnership with parents, carers, and relevant authorities, and we follow all current child protection legislation and best practice guidelines.

All staff and volunteers working with children must undergo appropriate background checks and safeguarding training suitable for their role. Staff are expected to maintain professional boundaries at all times, act immediately on any concerns, and follow our procedures for reporting disclosures, suspicions, or incidents. Everyone involved in the school shares responsibility for ensuring the safety and protection of our students.

Bullying, discrimination, or harassment of any kind is not tolerated. Physical contact between staff and students is kept appropriate, necessary, and professional, such as when helping with safe posture or dance technique. Communication between staff and students remains respectful and must not take place through private messaging or personal social media accounts.

Parents or carers are asked to provide consent before photos or videos of their child are taken via class4kids. Any images captured are used only for school purposes, such as progress monitoring or promotional material. Students will not be identified by their full name alongside their image without consent.

Children are supervised at all times during classes, rehearsals, and events. Clear and safe procedures are in place for drop-off and pick-up. Changing areas are monitored and used appropriately, and staff do not assist with dressing unless absolutely necessary and with parental knowledge or consent.

If a child shares a concern or if a staff member suspects that a child may be at risk, the matter is taken seriously and handled with care. Staff listen without judgment, avoid making promises of confidentiality, and report the concern immediately using the school's safeguarding procedures. Appropriate steps are then taken to ensure the child's safety, following official child protection guidelines and contacting authorities when required.

For online classes or digital communication, additional measures are taken to ensure safety. A responsible adult should be present at home during online sessions, and recording, screenshotting, or private communication outside the session is not permitted.

This Safeguarding Policy is reviewed annually, or sooner if legislation or best practice changes. We are committed to continuously improving our procedures to ensure the highest standard of care, protection, and respect for every student in our dance school.