



Child Protection Policy

February 2006

Joanne Carr School of Dance/JC PomPoms Cheerleading Squad are delighted to present their Child Protection Policy as a cornerstone of their commitment to developing a culture in which children and young people can participate in dancing/cheerleading in a safe and enjoyable environment.

This Child Protection Policy should be seen as a clear signal by Joanne Carr School of Dance/JC PomPoms Cheerleading Squad that it is determined to ensure all necessary steps are taken to protect from harm, those children and young people who participate in dancing/cheerleading at all levels.

Everyone has a duty of care towards children and vulnerable adults to help to protect them from abuse. Joanne Carr School of Dance/JC PomPoms Cheerleading Squad has developed this policy and these procedures as a part of the ethics programme to create a safe environment for dancing/cheerleading, where children, vulnerable adults and the adults that aid them are protected and supported.

We recognise, however, that child abuse is also a very emotive and difficult subject. It is important to understand the feelings involved but not to allow them to interfere with our judgement about any action to be taken. Joanne Carr School of Dance/JC PomPoms Cheerleading Squad recognises its responsibility to safeguard the welfare of all children and young people by protecting them from physical, sexual or emotional harm and from neglect or bullying.

It is determined to meet its obligation to the highest possible standard of care.

The policy establishes Joanne Carr School of Dance/JC Pompoms Cheerleading Squad's role and responsibilities and, together with the British Association of Teachers of Dance (BATD) and the British Cheerleading Association (BCA), clarifies what is expected of other organisations and individuals involved in dance/cheerleading. It very clearly highlights the importance placed by Joanne Carr School of Dance/JC Pompoms cheerleading Squad on the protection of children and young people. A requirement that all bodies affiliated to Joanne Carr School of Dance/JC Pompoms Cheerleading Squad, include in their rules, a policy statement concerning child protection and to provide ongoing development and training opportunities to all organisations as mentioned above.

The aims of Joanne Carr School of Dance/JC Pompoms Cheerleading Squad Child Protection Policy are:

- To develop a positive and pro-active position in order to best protect all children and young people who take part in dancing/cheerleading, enabling them to participate in an enjoyable and safe environment.
- To deliver quality assured child protection training and build a network of tutors to facilitate this delivery, in conjunction with, and supported by, the NSPCC.
- To demonstrate best practice in the area of child protection.
- To promote ethics and high standards throughout dance/cheerleading.

The key principles underpinning this Policy are that:

- The child's welfare is, and must always be, the paramount consideration.
- All children and young people have a right to be protected from abuse regardless of their age, gender, disability, culture, language, racial origin, religious beliefs or sexual identity.
- All suspicions and allegations of abuse will be taken seriously and responded to swiftly and appropriately. Working in partnership with children and young people and their parents/carers is essential. Social Services Departments have a statutory responsibility to ensure the welfare of children and young people. Joanne Carr School of Dance/JC Pompoms Cheerleading Squad is committed to working together with Social Services Departments and local Area Child Protection Committees (ACPC) in accordance with their procedures.

Joanne Carr School of Dance/JC Pompoms Cheerleading Squad's regulations on child protection are:

- Any act, statement, conduct or other matter which harms a child or children, or poses or may pose a risk of harm to a child or children, shall constitute behaviour which is improper and brings the activity into disrepute; notification that an individual has been charged with an Offence; or notification that an individual is the subject of an investigation by the police, social services or any other authority relating to an offence or Joanne Carr School of Dance/JC Pompoms Cheerleading Squad; any other information which causes Joanne Carr School of Dance/JC Pompoms Cheerleading Squad reasonably to believe that a person poses or may pose a risk of harm to a child or children then Joanne Carr School of Dance/JC Pompoms Cheerleading Squad shall have the power to order that the individual be suspended from all or any specific activity for such period and on such terms and conditions as it thinks fit.

In reaching its determination as to whether an order should be made, Joanne Carr School of Dance/JC Pompoms Cheerleading Squad shall give consideration, inter alia, to the following factors:

whether a child is or children are or may be at risk of harm; whether the matters are of a serious nature; whether an order is necessary or desirable to allow the conduct of any investigation by Joanne Carr School of Dance/JC Pompoms Cheerleading Squad or any other authority or body to proceed unimpeded; the period of an order referred above shall not be capable of lasting beyond the date upon which any charge by Joanne Carr School of Dance/JC Pompoms Cheerleading Squad or any offence is decided or brought to an end.

Where an order is imposed on an individual as above, Joanne Carr School of Dance/JC Pompoms Cheerleading Squad shall bring and conclude any proceedings against the person relating to the matters as soon as reasonably practicable; where a person is convicted or is made the subject of a caution in respect of an offence, that shall constitute a breach of the Rules of Joanne Carr School of Dance/JC Pompoms Cheerleading Squad and shall have the power to order the suspension of the person from all or any specific dancing/cheerleading activities for such period (including indefinitely) and on such terms and conditions as it thinks fit ; for the purposes of these regulations, Joanne Carr School of Dance/JC Pompoms Cheerleading Squad shall act through its governing bodies or any committee or sub-committee thereof; notification in writing of an order referred to above shall be given to the person concerned as soon as reasonably practicable.

First Aid and Treatment of Injuries:

If a child or vulnerable adult requires first aid or any form of medical attention whilst in the care of Joanne Carr School of Dance/JC Pompoms Cheerleading Squad, then the following good practice shall be followed:

Where practicable all parents/guardians of children under 16 must complete a Joanne Carr School of Dance/JC Pompoms Cheerleading Squad Medical Consent Form before participating in Joanne Carr School of Dance/JC Pompoms Cheerleading Squad; staff must aware of any pre-existing medical conditions, medicines being taken by participants or existing injuries and treatment required; staff shall keep a written record of any injury that occurs, along with the details of any treatment given; where possible, staff shall ensure access to medical advice and/or assistance is available; only those with a current, recognised First Aid qualification should respond to any injuries.

For taking and transporting children or vulnerable adults away from home:

If it is necessary to provide transport or take children or vulnerable adults away from home Joanne Carr School of Dance/JC Pompoms Cheerleading Squad shall follow good practice of the under noted.

Where practicable request written parental/guardian consent if members are required to transport; ensure all vehicles are correctly insured; all reasonable safety measures are taken, e.g. children in the back seat, seatbelts are worn; always plan and prepare a detailed programme of activities and ensure copies are available for other members and parents/guardians.

Photographing, Videoing and Filming of Children and Vulnerable Adults

The following is required for dancing/cheerleading activities or events where children or vulnerable adults are participating:

Where possible consent from the parent/guardian for photographing, videoing and/or filming of a child or vulnerable adult must be obtained prior

to the event or activity; where possible anyone wishing to use photographic/film/video equipment at a venue must obtain the approval of Joanne Carr School of Dance/JC Pompoms Cheerleading Squad; no unsupervised access or one-to-one sessions are to be permitted unless this has been approved in advance by the child or vulnerable adult, parent/guardian and the organisation, and appropriate vetting has occurred e.g. Disclosure Scotland check of individual wanting to photograph, film or video; Joanne Carr School of Dance/JC Pompoms Cheerleading Squad reserves the right at all times to prohibit the use of photography, film or video at any event or activity with which it is associated; the requirements above are publicly promoted to ensure all people present at the event or activity understand the procedure and are aware of whom to contact if concerned.

Any concerns with photographers or video or film operators are to be reported to Joanne Carr School of Dance/JC Pompoms Cheerleading Squad.

Children or Vulnerable Adults in Publications and on the Internet - website

Dancing/Cheerleading websites and publications provide excellent opportunities to broadcast achievements of individuals to the world and to provide a showcase for the activities of young people or vulnerable adults. In some cases, however, displaying certain information about children and vulnerable adults could place them at risk. The following procedure shall be followed to ensure Joanne Carr School of Dance/JC Pompoms Cheerleading Squad publications and Joanne Carr School of Dance/JC Pompoms Cheerleading Squad information on the Internet do not place children and vulnerable adults at risk; before publishing any information about a child or vulnerable adult, written consent must be obtained from the child or vulnerable adult's parent/guardian; if the material is changed from the time of consent, the parents/guardians must be informed and consent provided for the changes; the content of photographs or videos shall not depict a child or vulnerable adult in a provocative pose or in a state of

partial undress; where relevant, appropriate attire will be worn; children and vulnerable adults shall never be portrayed in a demeaning or tasteless manner; for photographs or videos of groups or teams of children or vulnerable adults Joanne Carr School of Dance/JC Pompoms Cheerleading Squad shall ensure that only the group or team is referred to, not individual members; all published events involving children or vulnerable adults shall be reviewed to ensure the information will not put children or vulnerable adults at risk; any publications of specific meetings or child/vulnerable adult events e.g. team coaching sessions, shall not be distributed to any individuals other than to those directly concerned; particular care shall be taken in publishing photographs, film or videos of children or vulnerable adults who are considered particularly vulnerable e.g. the subject of a child or vulnerable adult protection issue or a custody dispute; particular care shall be taken in publishing photographs, films or videos of children or vulnerable adults with physical, learning and/or communication or language disabilities, as they could be particularly vulnerable to abuse.

Important Note: Any concerns or enquiries about publications or Internet information should be reported to Joanne Carr School of Dance/JC Pompoms Cheerleading Squad.

CONCLUSION

Joanne Carr School of Dance/JC Pompoms Cheerleading Squad, through confirming this policy document, has indicated its determination to ensure that children and young people can participate in all forms of dance/cheerleading activities and do so with their safety being of paramount importance. It is essential that this document is representative of a process of continual improvement in the area of child protection within dancing/cheerleading. It is for all adults engaged in dancing/cheerleading activities to promote good practice and procedures, whilst being ever vigilant and aware of their responsibilities towards the children and young people.

Disclaimer

Although every care has been taken by Joanne Carr School of Dance/JC Pompoms Cheerleading Squad in the preparation of this publication, no warranty is given by Joanne Carr School of Dance/JC Pompoms Cheerleading Squad as to the accuracy or completeness of the information contained within it and Joanne Carr School of Dance/JC Pompoms Cheerleading Squad.

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