

Safeguarding Policy Statement

Purpose of Policy

National Centre for Circus Arts accepts its duty of care towards children, young and vulnerable people. This policy has been written to ensure the safety of all children, young people and vulnerable adults who take part in National Centre for Circus Arts activities, both on and off site. It applies to all staff, volunteers, apprentices and trustees coming into regular contact with children, young and vulnerable people through the National Centre for Circus Arts.

This policy is based on the following fundamental principles:

- We believe that all children, young and vulnerable people have a right to protection from abuse, whatever their age, culture, disability, gender, language, ethnic origin, religious beliefs or sexual identity.
- We believe that the welfare of the child, young or vulnerable person is paramount. All suspicions and allegations of abuse should be taken seriously and addressed swiftly and appropriately.
- We recognise our responsibility to make staff, volunteers and trustees aware of the issues surrounding the safeguarding of children, young and vulnerable people and to ensure that they understand and implement the policy and procedures outlined in this document.
- We recognise the notional risk of abuse associated with an imbalance of power e.g. between teachers and students in closed situations.

Policy aims:

- To ensure the safety and protection of all children, young and vulnerable people whilst in the care of National Centre for Circus Arts.
- To enable all staff, volunteers and trustees to make informed and confident responses to issues around the protection of children, young and vulnerable people
- To promote a culture where all participants feel safe and respect each other's individuality.
- To ensure that everyone has access to training, information and guidance in the area of keeping children, young and vulnerable people safe from harm.
- To ensure that parents and students are knowledgeable about these issues so that they can better protect themselves.

Safeguarding Team

Designated Safeguarding Leads (DSLs): Chief Executive Officer, Director of Training, Head of Participation & Outreach and Head of Academic Administration & Student Support (also Prevent officer)

The post holders receive regular training and are responsible for keeping up with changes to legislation and annual policy review. They have day-to-day responsibility for the implementation of the Safeguarding policy at the National Centre for Circus Arts.

Kate White, CEO	020 7613 8231	kate@nationalcircus.org.uk
Glen Stewart, Director of Training	020 7613 8240	glen@nationalcircus.org.uk
Beth King, Head of Participation & Outreach	020 7613 8274	bethking@nationalcircus.org.uk
Stevie Taylor, Head of Academic Administration & Student Support	020 7613 8228	stevie@nationalcircus.org.uk

The DSLs are all trained through external sources (NSPCC) and have oversight of all internal training at National Centre for Circus Arts ensuring best practice is embedded in processes and procedures.

Useful contact numbers

Hackney Children's Social Care	020 8356 5500 (Mon -Fri) or 020 8356 2710 (urgent referrals)
Tower Hamlets Child protection	020 7364 5006 (Mon – Fri only)
Islington Child protection	020 7527 7400 (Mon – Fri) or 020 7226 0992 (urgent referrals)
NSPCC	0808 800 5000 (emergency number)

Guidance and Legislation

Working Together to Safeguard Children 2018 - A guide to inter-agency working to safeguard and promote the welfare of children.

The Police Act 1997 – makes it a criminal offence for an employer not to check an employee working with children or vulnerable adults and/or knowingly give a job to someone who is inappropriate to work with children or vulnerable adults.

Children Act 2004 – outlines the statutory duty on key people and bodies to make arrangements to safeguard and promote the welfare of children, young people and vulnerable adults.

The Criminal Justice and Court Services Act 2000 - superseded The Protection of Children Act 1999 and is specifically about disclosure and child protection issues.

The Sexual Offences Act 2003 – specifically highlights that it is an offence for an adult – such as a teacher – to have a sexual relationship with a child when that person is in a position of trust related to the child.

This policy was last reviewed: April 2019



18 September 2019

Signed: Date:

Kate White, CEO, National Centre for Circus Arts.