

# **national centre for circus arts**

## **SAFEGUARDING STATEMENT**

National Centre for Circus Arts accepts its duty of care towards children, young and vulnerable people. This policy statement 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. This policy statement 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 statement should be read alongside our policies and procedures for Safeguarding.

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.

### **Related policies and procedures**

This policy statement should be read alongside our organisational policies and procedures which include the following information:

- Reporting abuse or expected abuse
- Professional boundaries
- Mental Health First Aid
- Bullying
- Gender identity guidance
- Supervision for offsite excursions
- Safe recruitment
- Social media communications and photo permissions
- Confidentiality guidance
- Prevent Duty
- Definitions of abuse and vulnerable people
- Contact details for Children Social Care and support services

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## Designated Safeguarding Lead and Prevent Lead

Dan Cowdrill, Chief Executive Officer (CEO)

020 7613 231 or [dan@nationalcircus.org.uk](mailto:dan@nationalcircus.org.uk)

The post holder receives regular training and is 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.

## Deputy Designated Safeguarding Leads (DDSLs): Head of Learning and Access

This post holder receives a similar level and frequency of training and deputises for the DSL

Alice Jackson, Head of Learning and Access

020 7613 8236 or

[alicejackson@nationalcircus.org.uk](mailto:alicejackson@nationalcircus.org.uk)

## Designated Safeguarding Officers (DSOs)

Supporting the DSLs, officers are required to undertake training specific to this policy. They are responsible for keeping accurate records and overseeing the safety of children, young and vulnerable people at National Centre for Circus Arts.

Lucy Price, Head of Public Programming

020 7613 4141 or

[lucyprice@nationalcircus.org.uk](mailto:lucyprice@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 & Families Services (MASH)  
(in emergencies)

020 8356 5500 (general advice) or 020 8356 2710

Hackney Local Authority Designated Officer (LADO)

020 8356 4569 or [LADO@hackney.gov.uk](mailto:LADO@hackney.gov.uk)

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)

*N.B. LADO is ONLY to manage and oversee allegations of abuse of misconduct against people who work with children. It is not for general concerns about children's welfare which would be directed towards MASH*

## Guidance and Legislation

- Working Together to Safeguard Children 2023 – 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: July 2025

**Dan Cowdrill, CEO, National Centre for Circus Arts.**

Date: 1<sup>st</sup> July 2025

