

SAFEGUARDING STATEMENT

The National Centre for Circus Arts accepts its duty of care towards children, young people and adults at risk. This policy statement has been written to ensure the safety of all children, young people and adults at risk 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 people and adults at risk 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 people and adults at risk 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 people and adults at risk 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 people and adults at risk 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 people and adults at risk.
- 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 people and adults at risk 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 adults at risk
- Contact details for Children Social Care and support services

Safeguarding Team
Designated Safeguarding Lead and Prevent Lead

Dan Cowdrill, Chief Executive Officer (CEO)

020 7613 231 or 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)

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

Alice Jackson, Head of Learning and Access
alicejackson@nationalcircus.org.uk

020 7613 8236 or

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 people and adults at risk at National Centre for Circus Arts.

Joe O'Neill, Chief Operations Officer

joe@nationalcircus.org.uk

The DSLs are all trained through external sources 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
Tower Hamlets Child protection (MAST)	020 7364 5006 (Mon – Fri) Multi – Agency
Support Team (MAST)	
Islington Child protection (Children's Services Contact Team)	020 7527 7400 (Mon – Fri) or 020 7226 0992 (social services urgent referrals)
NSPCC	0808 800 5000 (Mon – Fri helpline)

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 2026 – a guide to multi-agency working to support and protect children.
- The Police Act 1997 – provides part of the legislative framework governing criminal record checks and Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS).
- Children Act 2004 – outlines the statutory duty on key organisations and agencies to make arrangements to safeguard and promote the welfare of children.
- Safeguarding Vulnerable Groups Act 2006 – designed to protect children and adults at risk from harm. The Sexual Offences Act 2003 – refers to offenses relating to 16 & 17 year olds where an adult is in a legally defined position of trust in relation to the young person.
- Department of Education, Out-of-school settings: safeguarding guidance for providers – non statutory guidance produced to help out-of-school settings protect the children attending them from harm.

This policy was last reviewed: September 2026



Dan Cowdrill, CEO, National Centre for Circus Arts.