



Child Protection Policy and Guidance

Introduction

There is a legal mandate for Child Protection. Central government guidance, local procedures and the school policy provide the framework for action to protect children from abuse. This Child Protection Policy should be seen as an acknowledgement that The Ministry of Beats Cheer and Dance School is determined to ensure all necessary steps are taken to protect from harm, all children and young people who participate in cheerleading and dancing. All staff have a duty of care towards protecting children and vulnerable adults from abuse and have a part to play with putting this policy into practice. The Ministry of Beats Cheer and Dance School developed the child protection policy and procedures to create a safe environment for cheerleading and dancing, where children, vulnerable adults and the adults that aid them are protected and supported. The school also recognises its responsibility to safeguard the welfare of all children and young people by protecting them from physical, sexual or emotional harm, neglect and/or bullying. It is determined to meet its obligation to the highest possible standard of care. The policy establishes the role and responsibilities of The Ministry of Beats Cheer and Dance School and clarifies what is expected of other organisations and individuals involved in cheerleading and dance.

The school must be active in safeguarding and promoting the welfare of all pupils.

- All reasonable measures must be taken to minimise risks of harm to children's welfare
- All appropriate actions must be taken to address concerns about the welfare of a child, in full partnership with local agencies.

Staff are encouraged to adopt an open and accepting attitude towards pupils and to promote a listening climate within the school environment. The school has a clear commitment to working closely with other agencies involved in the protection of children.

Aims

- To promote ethics and high standards throughout cheerleading and dance.
- Ensure that the schools statutory duties are fulfilled.
- To develop a pro-active and positive position to best protect all children and young people who take part in cheerleading and dancing, enabling them to participate in an enjoyable and safe environment.
- To demonstrate best practice in the area of child protection.
- To ensure all staff are aware of the agreed policy and procedure.
- To attend training/regular updates for staff so that they are able to identify signs and symptoms of abuse.
- To annually update and review the school's Child Protection Policy.
- To develop and maintain a confidential record system on child protection issues.

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Role of Staff

All staff at The Ministry of Beats Cheer and Dance School have a Full Disclosure and Barring Service Check (same as CRB) and have completed the local authority level 3 safeguarding children training. It is for all adults engaged in cheerleading and/or dancing activities to promote good practice and procedures, whilst being vigilant and aware of their responsibilities towards the children and young people. All staff have a responsibility to promote the welfare of children in their care by providing a safe environment in which pupils feel secure and valued. This environment should provide an atmosphere of trust in which children have the confidence to share problems. It is the responsibility of all staff to be aware of the possible signs and symptoms of abuse and act on any concerns. It is not the responsibility of staff to interrogate or investigate at length.

The key principles:

- 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. The Ministry of Beats Cheer and Dance School is committed to working together with Social Services Departments and local Area Safeguarding and Child Protection professionals in accordance with their procedures.

Regulations on child protection are:

- The ministry of Beats Cheer and Dance School reserves the right to order that an individual is suspended from all or any specific activity for such period and on such terms and conditions as it thinks fit. This includes:
 - 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.
 - any other information which causes the school to believe that a person poses or may pose a risk of harm to a child or children.

Responding to Child Initiated Concerns

Should a pupil confide in a teacher or other member of staff it is essential to treat the information seriously. If confidentiality is requested by the child, it is important NOT to promise that any information given will be kept confidential without losing the trust of the child. Listen carefully to what the child has to say and reassure him/her they have done the right thing in talking to you. It is essential to record the information immediately however small or insignificant. Record the

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conversation and inform the local safeguarding officer. The record should include, date, time, place as well as what was said.

A concern may be raised:

- By the child themselves
- By another member of staff
- By signs or symptoms observed personally
- By another child or pupil

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 The Ministry of Beats Cheer and Dance School, then the following good practice shall be followed:

- Where practicable all parents/guardians of children under 16 must complete the Medical Consent Section of the registration form before participating in any classes with The Ministry of Beats Cheer and Dance School.
- Staff must be aware of any pre-existing medical conditions, medicines being taken by participants or existing injuries and treatment required.
- A written record of any injury that occurs will be kept by staff, along with the details of any treatment given.
- Treatment will only be given if it is necessary and parental consent has been given, this will not involve giving medication (even painkillers)
- 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.

Photographing, Videoing and Filming of Children and Vulnerable Adults

The following is required for cheerleading or dancing 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. Anyone wishing to use photographic/film/video equipment at a venue must obtain the approval of the Ministry of Beats Cheer and Dance School. No unsupervised access or one-to-one sessions are 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 and Barring Service check of individual wanting to photograph, film or video. The School reserves the right 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. It is important that any concerns with photographers or video or film operators are to be reported to staff at The Ministry of Beats Cheer and Dance School.

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Children or Vulnerable Adults in Publications and on the Internet (website and Social Media – Facebook, Instagram, twitter)

Cheerleading and dance websites and publications provide a showcase for the activities of young people or vulnerable adults and provide excellent opportunities to broadcast achievements of individuals to the world. However, in some circumstances displaying certain information about children and vulnerable adults could place them at risk. The following procedure shall be followed to ensure any Ministry of Beats Cheer and Dance School publications and information on the Internet do not place children and vulnerable adults at risk. Written consent must be obtained from the child or vulnerable adult's parent/guardian before any information is published. If any 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 state of partial undress or in a provocative pose and appropriate attire will be worn, where relevant. 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 The Ministry of Beats Cheer and Dance School will ensure that only the group or team is referred to, not individual members. 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. The Ministry of Beats will aim to take particular care when 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 The Ministry of Beats Cheer and Dance School.

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