**MOVE IT… PERFORMING ARTS**

May 2018

***Safeguarding is everyone’s responsibility***

***Everyone who comes into contact with children and their families has a responsibility for keeping them safe.***

It is good practice for organisations that involve children in their performances, or paid modelling to have a safeguarding policy which is regularly reviewed and updated, and ensure all members, staff and volunteers are signed up to it .

**Key Principles**

* Children should be supervised at all times
* There should be clear guidelines or procedures for dealing with concerns about children
* All staff should have knowledge about safeguarding
* Staff should be well supported
* Parental involvement (e.g. as observers or as accompanying adults) should be encouraged
* Resources should be sufficient to run safely
* Practice should reflect policy
* Premises should be risk assessed and safe

A child is defined as anyone up to the age of 18 years. The regulation relating to children taking part in performances, activities (including modelling) apply up to statutory school leaving age, which is the last Friday in June of the school year in which they become 16. Organisations have a duty of care towards young people between statutory school leaving age until they are 18. They may not be required to be supervised by chaperones, but they still need to be protected by Child Protection policies and procedures.

**Safeguarding & Child Protection Policy**

***Move It... Performing Arts*** is fully committed to safeguarding the welfare of all children and young people up to the age of 18. We recognise our responsibility to take all reasonable steps to promote safe practice and to protect children from harm, abuse and exploitation.

***Move It... Performing Arts*** acknowledges its duty to act appropriately to any allegations, reports or suspicions of abuse. All staff and volunteers will work together to encourage the development of an ethos which embraces difference and diversity and respects the rights of children, young people and adults.

***Move It... Performing Arts*** recognises its duty of care under the Children and Young Persons Act 1963, the Children (Performances and Activities) (England) Regulations 2014, the Children Act 1989 and Working Together to Safeguard Children 2015.

***Move It... Performing Arts*** will ensure that:

* The welfare of the child is paramount
* All children, whatever their age, culture, disability, gender, language, racial origin, religious beliefs and/or sexual identity have the right to protection from abuse
* All suspicions and allegations of abuse will be taken seriously and responded to swiftly and appropriately
* Everyone will be treated with respect and dignity
* The welfare of each child will always be put first
* Enthusiastic and constructive criticism will be given to pupils rather than negative criticism
* Bullying will not be accepted or condoned
* All adult members will provide a positive role model
* Action will be taken to stop any inappropriate behaviour
* It will comply with health & safety legislation
* It will keep informed of changes in legislation and policies for the protection of children
* It will undertake relevant professional development and training
* It will ensure all contact and medical details for every child is up to date and available at the place of teaching or performance.
* All staff will receive dedicated safeguarding training.

***Move It... Performing Arts*** has a designated Safeguarding lead who is in charge of ensuring that the child protection policy is adhered to. The Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL) is Paula Engwell and she can be contacted on 07791 793429.

In implementing this policy ***Move It... Performing Arts*** will:

* Ensure that all workers/members understand their legal and moral responsibility to protect children and young people from harm, abuse and exploitation.
* Ensure that all workers/members and volunteers understand their duty to report concerns that arise about a child or young person, or a workers conduct towards a child or young person to the Designated Safeguarding Lead.
* The Designated Safeguarding Lead will refer any child protection concerns to the statutory child protection agencies (i.e. Police and/or Children’s Social Care).
* Children, young people and parents will be informed of who the Designated Safeguarding Lead is and be able to raise any safeguarding concerns & know that these will be taken seriously and acted upon.

Appropriate physical contact in dance: Teaching dance is a physical activity and a teacher will sometimes need to make physical contact with a student to show an idea or to correct the student’s position. This can include:

* + Supporting lower back, abdomen and legs
  + Lifting
  + Adjusting arms, legs, rib cage, hips, feet, hands
  + Moving one student in relation to another

By agreeing to the school rules and policies parent(s)/carer(s) and students acknowledge that whilst teachers will try their best to give corrections in a verbal manner sometimes the use of touch may be necessary when giving corrections. By agreeing to the school rules and policies parent(s)/ carer(s) and students accept and understand that appropriate physical contact may be necessary when giving corrections and hereby give permission for any teacher from Move It… Performing Arts to do so.

This policy will be regularly monitored by Paula Engwell and will be subject to an annual review.

Signed:

Date policy agreed:

Date policy to be reviewed: