UNITY DANCE PROMOTIONS

SAFEGUARDING & CHILD PROTECTION POLICY

The safety of children attending our competitions is of paramount importance to us. The following steps will be taken at our events to ensure that children receive a safe and positive experience.

All staff and team members are expected to uphold high standards of safeguarding and act appropriately at all times.

Designated Safeguarding Leads

The Designated Safeguarding Lead for UNITY DANCE PROMOTIONS is Katie Park.

For safeguarding concerns before or after an event, please email the relevant event e-mail address as stated on the event brochure.

During an event, please speak directly to the safeguarding lead or member of the event team so that concerns can be addressed promptly.

Supervision of Children

Children must be accompanied and supervised by a responsible adult throughout their time at the event, including when they are not dancing.

Teachers or the school's designated group lead should record children's arrival and departure times. Parents and responsible adults should notify their school's lead when arriving or leaving.

Recording attendance does not replace the accompanying adult's responsibility for the child's care and supervision.

Parents, responsible adults & Dance schools should ensure that dancers are fit & well enough to participate safely.

Event Safety Measures

A venue risk assessment will be carried out before doors open to the public. Checks include:

Fire exits and access routes are clear.

Floors are free from hazards and spillages.

Room temperature is suitable.

Toilet facilities are adequate.

The venue is accessible and suitable for attendees.

Warm-Up & Dance Areas

Dancers will be given a dedicated warm-up period on the competition floor before each section.

Dancers must only warm up in designated areas and follow instructions from the event team.

Clothing & Footwear

Dancers must wear appropriate, fit-for-purpose clothing and footwear.

Clothing must provide suitable coverage throughout the performance. Jewellery and hair accessories must meet our Clothing & Footwear requirements.

Children must use the designated changing facilities and must not change in public areas.

Chaperones & Event Team

Licensed chaperones will be present at events to monitor safeguarding standards and support the event team.

They will oversee:

Fire exits, aisles and gangways remaining clear.

Appropriate venue conditions.

Children using suitable changing areas.

Warm-ups taking place in designated areas.

Compliance with the Photography & Filming policy.

Children being supervised.

Appropriate clothing and footwear.

Spectators observing video policy.

Teacher and attendee conduct.

Any unusual or suspicious activity.

Concerns will be reported promptly to the safeguarding leads so that appropriate action can be taken.

The presence of chaperones does not replace the agreed supervision responsibilities of accompanying adults.

Good Practice & Behaviour

All adults attending or working at our events are expected to:

Treat children and adults with respect and dignity.

Act as positive role models.

Maintain appropriate boundaries.

Avoid being alone with a child in a private or unobserved setting.

Inappropriate physical contact, bullying, intimidation, harassment and behaviour that puts another person at risk will not be tolerated.

Please refer to our Code of Conduct for full expectations.

First Aid

Qualified first aiders will be present throughout the event.

Please notify a member of staff if you require first aid or become aware of someone who needs assistance.

Event Entry & Security

Admission is managed through our wristband system.

Please follow our Wristband Policy below, including the requirements for wearing wristbands and the exemption for non-competing children aged under 3.

Safeguarding Responsibility

Members of the event team have received safeguarding training and understand how to recognise and report concerns.

Safeguarding also depends on teachers, accompanying adults and other attendees remaining attentive and reporting anything that causes concern.

Reporting Concerns

Safeguarding concerns should be reported promptly to Katie Park, Chris Rush, Barbara Dimbleby or any member of the Unity Dance Promotions event team who will then arrange the appropriate action.

Anyone may raise a safeguarding concern directly. You do not need to go through your dance teacher or wait for their permission.

Concerns about the safety or wellbeing of an adult can also be raised through this route.

All concerns will be taken seriously and acted upon. Information will be handled sensitively and shared with those who need it to protect the people involved. Where necessary, appropriate external agencies will be contacted.

If someone is in immediate danger, call 999.

Who Needs a Wristband?

All competitors and spectators must have a valid wristband to attend a Unity Dance Promotions event.

Non-competing children aged under 3 years do not require a wristband, but they should be referenced upon booking. Children who are competing require a competitor wristband regardless of age.

Please see the individual event brochure information for wristband prices.

The sale of entry wristbands for the events is in advance and either by an on-line entry system or via the Dance Schools attending. Our door staff will not permit anyone to enter without an entry wristband.

CODE OF CONDUCT POLICY

All attendees should behave in an appropriate manner around children, not take drugs, not swear and behave respectfully towards other parents, dancers and teachers. In addition, teachers specifically should not drink alcohol & should avoid any communication with children from other dance schools.

A minimum of 2 Chaperone members of staff working as part of the organisation team at UNITY DANCE PROMOTIONS events will hold recognised training in safeguarding and reporting of concerns.

Any breaches may result in external agencies being contacted.

RAISING A CONCERN

Competition-related questions or concerns should normally be raised through the Dance School teacher.

Parents, dancers and spectators should speak to their teacher first, allowing the teacher to raise the matter with Unity Dance Promotions where necessary.

This helps us understand and resolve competition queries clearly and avoids multiple enquiries about the same issue.

Teachers should speak to a member of the Unity Dance Promotions event team as soon as possible if a concern arises during a competition.

Where an issue can reasonably be resolved on the day, we will aim to deal with it at the event.

Please do not approach adjudicators directly about results, marks, another competitor or school, or an adjudicator's decision. Where appropriate, the event team can speak to the relevant staff member or adjudicator on your behalf.

If the concern involves your teacher, or you cannot appropriately raise it through them, you may contact Unity Dance Promotions directly.

Safeguarding concerns can always be raised directly and do not need to go through a teacher.

PHOTOGRAPHY & FILMING POLICY

We know that photographs and videos are an important way for dancers and families to celebrate their progress and remember their time at Unity Dance Promotions events.

Please help us respect the privacy and wellbeing of everyone attending by following the guidance below.

Photographing & Filming Your Own Dancers

Parents, responsible adults and teachers may photograph or film their own children or dancers during the event.

As several dancers may share the competition floor, other participants may appear in the background. Please be considerate of others and avoid deliberately focusing on dancers outside your own family or school without permission.

Recording must not obstruct anyone's view, block access routes or interfere with the competition.

Photography and filming ARE NOT permitted in toilets or changing areas.

Sharing Photos & Videos

Before sharing images or videos online, please consider who appears in them and whether the content is appropriate to share.

Teachers should follow their school's permissions for sharing images of students. Families should consider their social media privacy settings and the audience who will be able to view their posts.

Please respect any photography or filming restrictions communicated by the Unity Dance Promotions team.

Official Event Photography

An official photographer may attend selected Unity Dance Promotions events.

Unity Dance Promotions Promotional Photography & Filming

The Unity Dance Promotions team may take photographs and short videos for use on our website, social media and other promotional material.

If a dancer or family has concerns about appearing in promotional content, please let us know so that we can discuss and agree suitable arrangements.

Raising Concerns & Agreeing Arrangements

Teachers should inform Unity Dance Promotions of any photography or filming concerns before the event wherever possible. This gives us time to discuss the circumstances and agree appropriate arrangements.

Concerns can also be raised on the day. Anyone may speak directly to the event team or the safeguarding lead without going through their teacher.

Depending on the circumstances, we may restrict photography or filming for particular sections or ask attendees to stop recording. Please follow any instructions given by the event team.

If you have a concern about an image or video already published by Unity Dance Promotions, please contact us so that we can review it and take appropriate action.