



District Sports

Safeguarding Policy

Policy Statement

District Sports is committed to providing a safe learning environment for all children in our care, in which they are protected from abuse, harm and radicalisation whatever their age, culture, disability, gender, language, race, religion/belief and/or sexual orientation. District Sports will respond promptly and appropriately to all incidents or concerns regarding the safety of a child. District Sports child protection procedures comply with all relevant legislation and with guidance issued by the Local Safeguarding Children Board (LSCB) and/or Department for Education (DfE).

Safeguarding and promoting the welfare of all the children in our care is ALL staff's responsibility. Everyone who comes into contact with the children in our care and their families has a role to play. To fulfil this responsibility effectively, all staff should make sure their approach is child centred. This means that they should consider, at all times, what is in the best interests of the child.

Safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children is defined in the Department of Education 'Keeping Children Safe in Education' guidance (1st September 2023) as:

- Protecting children from maltreatment;
- Preventing the impairment of children's mental and physical health or development;
- Ensuring that children grow up in circumstances consistent with the provision of safe and effective care;
- Taking action to enable all children to have the best outcomes

Designated Safeguarding Lead

There will be a Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL) available at all times whilst all sports and active sessions are taking place. The DSL coordinates child protection issues and liaises with external agencies (e.g Social Care, the LSCB, DOFA, OfSted and so on) if necessary. District Sports DSL is Tom Pugh, who is also the contact for school curriculum and before and after-school activities.

DBS and employment Checks

Email – admin@districtsportssouth.com Mobile

– 07858 904422

Website – www.districtsportssouth.com



All new staff undergo an enhanced Disclosure and Barring Service check (DBS) with barred lists, which is the highest level and shows whether the applicant is on the list of people barred from doing the role.

Other checks include:

- Overseas Criminal Record Check
- Right to work in the UK
- Medical Fitness
- Qualifications
- Identity
- References

All gaps in education/employment history are also checked. No staff are employed who fail these checks.

Staff training

All members of staff, including coaches, assistants and students undertake a UK Coaching, or equivalent, Safeguarding & Protecting Children course, or something very similar, for example a Safeguarding package produced by the Hampshire Football Association, UK Coaching or a similar organisation. This training is refreshed as and when necessary – within three years.

Our aim is to refresh our Safeguarding training every 12-18 months to ensure that we are aware of any national changes and to continue building our teams' knowledge and confidence when conducting practical sessions with children and vulnerable adults.

Toilet Breaks and Changing Areas

No single child will be supervised by a lone member of staff. Should the need for a toilet break arise, staff will ensure that more than one child is in the group taken.

This is the same when it comes to changing to and from PE kit/practical clothing.

Our best practice will be for our staff to not be left alone to supervise classes or groups of children changing either into or out of PE kits at the beginning or end of curriculum PE sessions - another adult member of staff should be present in the room.

Bullying or anti-social behaviour

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District Sports will never tolerate peer-to-peer bullying, including physical or verbal abuse, of children in our care. All incidents will be dealt with as soon as they come to the attention of the member of staff and if needed, the child responsible for the behaviour removed from the class and their parents notified. We design our classes and activities to be totally inclusive and attempts to exclude another child will not be accepted.

Whistleblowing

All staff should feel able to raise concerns about poor or unsafe practice. General guidance on whistleblowing can be found at: <https://www.gov.uk/whistleblowing>. NSPCC guidance can also be found at:

<https://www.nspcc.org.uk/keeping-children-safe/reporting-abuse/report/report-abuse-online/>

Use of mobile phones and cameras

Photographs will only be taken of children with their parent carers permission. Photos and/or video footage will only be taken by the senior coach. Drone footage taken during community sessions, holiday schemes and extra-curricular activities may be taken by an authorised and suitably qualified pilot with all footage being viewed by the senior coach immediately afterwards. Senior staff connected to the School/Community/Facility would be made aware and would only go ahead with the correct permissions.

Any photographs or video footage deemed unsuitable or showing children with no prior permission will be edited or deleted immediately.

Mobile phones are not to be used on school premises whilst coaching or in view of children.

In addition to the above, children are never permitted to use electronic devices such as cameras or phones during our active sessions unless there is an explained and valid reason.

Reporting procedures

All staff are trained to spot signs of abuse, whether that is physical, emotional, sexual or signs of neglect, plus any other signs of specific safeguarding issues. Please click the link for a copy of the 'Keeping Children Safe in Education' guidance (1st September 2023)

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/media/64f0a68ea78c5f000dc6f3b2/Keeping_children_safe_in_education_2023.pdf

Any areas of concern will immediately be reported to the DSL and the relevant members of staff within the venue - school, community, council, charity - and appropriate action will then be taken.

This policy was adopted by: District Sports	Date: 01/06/2024
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To be reviewed: July 2025	Signed: Tom Pugh