

The Historical Dance Society

Safeguarding, Child and Vulnerable Adult Policy

Introduction

The Historical Dance Society (HDS) believes that safeguarding for all members, the welfare of children and vulnerable adults is paramount on all occasions and understands that safeguarding is everyone's responsibility. HDS will take all reasonable steps to ensure the safety of all participants, children, young people and vulnerable adults involved in its activities.

In accordance with relevant law and guidance, as set out below, this policy details our procedures for safeguarding and child and vulnerable adult protection for members and participants on any of HDS' activities.

This policy is applicable to the whole of the HDS community including committee members and event organisers. Everyone has a role to play in child and vulnerable adult protection and safeguarding.

HDS ensures that arrangements are in place to safeguard and promote the welfare of all participants, young people, children and vulnerable adults by:

- Creating and maintaining an environment where everyone feels secure, are encouraged to participate in the activities, communicate, and are listened to
- Being committed to protecting participants, children and vulnerable adults from:
 - harm including injury, attack and emotional distress
 - abuse including verbal, physical, bullying
 - cyberbullying including inappropriate language online
 - sexual exploitation,
 - female genital mutilation,
 - extremism, radicalisation, forced marriage,
 - inappropriate materials, language and actions
 - peer on peer abuse
 - sexual violence and sexual harassment.

- Keeping written records of any potential concern during HDS activities (this includes recording dates, times, people responsible, and actions), and ensuring all records are kept securely and shared with appropriate authorities if necessary.
- Being committed to safe recruitment practices
- Ensuring that parents, carers, guardians and support workers attending HDS events understand that they have full responsibility for their child(ren), young people and vulnerable adults within the event: for safeguarding, child and vulnerable adult protection, and duty of care.
- Maintaining clear procedures in line with the latest guidance for reporting allegations against staff.

HDS is committed to ensuring that all possible situations in which children, young people or vulnerable adults are involved with them are risk assessed.

HDS is committed to the safe recruitment, selection and vetting of tutors, event organisers and any other individual that HDS may consult, and reserves the right not to employ in any capacity:

- a. any person with a known history of abuse to children or vulnerable adults
- b. any person felt to present a danger or threat to the safety of children or vulnerable adults.

Legislation and guidance

This policy for HDS is derived from a variety of legislative provisions and statutory guidance. In particular, it is based on good practice found in:

Keeping Children Safe in Education (2022).

Working Together to Safeguard Children (2018).

The following legislation is also incorporated into this policy:

The Children Act 1989 (and **2004 amendment**), which gives a broad framework for the care and protection of children and includes provisions for Local Authority inquiries, care proceedings, and emergency provisions.

Female Genital Mutilation Act 2003 S 5B(11), as inserted by section 74 of the **Serious Crime Act 2015**, places a statutory duty on teachers to report to the police where they discover/find that female genital mutilation

(FGM) appears to have been carried out on a girl under 18. Responsibilities for safeguarding and supporting girls affected by FGM are found in **Statutory guidance on FGM**.

The Rehabilitation of Offenders Act 1974 outlines provisions for when people with criminal convictions can work with children.

‘Regulated activity’ in relation to children is found in Schedule 4 of the **Safeguarding Vulnerable Groups Act 2006**.

Charity’s ‘PREVENT’ duties under the **Counter-Terrorism and Security Act 2015** with respect to protecting people from the risk of radicalisation and extremism can be found in: **Statutory guidance on the Prevent duty**.

Other statutory provisions relevant to child and vulnerable adult protection and safeguarding include:

The Education Act 2011.

The Education (pupil information) (England) Regulations 2013.

Prevent Duty Guidance for England and Wales – September 2015.

The Sexual Offences Act, 2003, Home Office.

Teaching on-line safety in charities, DfE, 2019.

Assessment

HDS has identified the following situations where children or vulnerable adults may have contact with its activities:

1. Children, young people or vulnerable adults may be present at an event without being active participants e.g. where a parent or carer brings a young child or vulnerable adult to a workshop in which the parent is participating.
2. Children, young people or vulnerable adults may be participants in the events.
3. Where HDS are providing educational tuition to some other organisation e.g. a school.
4. Children or vulnerable adults come in contact with the educational or other materials that we produce.

In situation 1 above, the children are always the total responsibility of the adult they are accompanying.

In situation 2 above, children, young people or vulnerable adult must always be under the direct supervision of and the full responsibility of:

- a. their parent/guardian/carer or
- c. an appropriate (DBS checked) named individual adult as a support worker.

Where the responsible adult is not the parent or guardian, HDS must be satisfied that the parent/guardian/carer is aware of the event and is happy with the planned level of supervision.

HDS consider that children between the ages of 16 and 18 should not usually require parental consent or supervision to attend HDS activities however, activities will always be risk assessed by the organiser of the event and supervision levels decided.

In situation 3 above, HDS's responsibility is limited to those individuals working on its behalf. It expects them to behave in a manner that is appropriate to the audience and participants, in particular with regard to the age of those involved.

In situation 4 above, HDS will regularly review its materials to ensure that none contain any inappropriate language or portray inappropriate attitudes.

Implementation

This policy will be available for all participants and interested parties for inspection.

A form (see below) will be used to identify the appropriate adults in situation 2 above.

Review

The policy will be kept under review by the trustees and reviewed annually. It may be changed or cancelled by them after due consideration at a committee meeting.

Consent Form for a person under 16 or a vulnerable adult to participate in HDS activities

If any potential participant is under 16 years old or is classed as a vulnerable adult, we need written permission for them to attend. We also need a nominated person to be fully responsible for them while involved with the duration of our activities and in transit.

Without this permission we will have to refuse access to our events.

Consent can be given by printing out and completing the form below and sending it to secretary@historicaldance.org.uk

Form for Parent / Carer or Guardian's Consent

I (name of parent / carer or guardian) give my permission for
..... (name of child / vulnerable adult) to attend
..... (event) on (date).....

Age of person under 16 at the time of the event:

I agree that (name of responsible adult) will be responsible for their care at this event and in transit.

I agree/disagree (delete one) that (name of child / vulnerable adult) may be included in any write ups or photographs and reviews including those on our website and social media.

Signed(Parent/Carer/Guardian/Support Worker)

Date