

## **Martial Arts School Safeguarding Policy**

**Developed 8<sup>th</sup> February 2016**

**This Policy applies to all Staff, including instructors, parent helpers, volunteers and students or anyone working on behalf of (insert your school name here).**

**(insert your school name here) deems that anyone under the age of 18 is a child under the Children Act 1989**

**The purpose of this policy is:**

- **To protect children and young people who receive services from (insert your school name here).**
- **To provide all staff and volunteers with the core principles that underline our approach to safeguarding of children.**

**(insert Martial Arts School Name here) believe that no child should ever experience any form of abuse of any kind. We have a responsibility to promote the welfare of all children and young people and to keep them safe. We are committed to practice in a way that protects them.**

### **Legal Framework**

**This policy has been created with the assistance of legal framework that exists and have been drawn up on the basis of the law and guidance that seeks to protect children, namely:**

- **Children Act 1989**
- **United Convention of the Rights of a Child 1991**
- **Data Protection Act 1998**
- **Sexual Offences Act 2003**
- **Children Act 2004**
- **Protection of Freedoms Act 2012**
- **Relevant government guidance on safeguarding children**

**We Recognise the following:**

- **The welfare of a child is paramount as defined in the Children Act 1989**



- **All children regardless of age, gender, disability, racial heritage, religious belief, sexual orientation or identity, have a right to equal protection from all forms of harm or abuse**
- **Some children are additionally vulnerable because of the impact previous experiences, their level of dependency, communication needs or other issues.**
- **Working in partnership with children, young people, their parents, carers and other agencies is essential in promoting young people's welfare.**

**We aim to keep children and young people safe by:**

- **Valuing them, listening to them and respecting them.**
- **Adopting child protection practices through procedures and a code of conduct for staff and volunteers.**
- **Developing and implementing an effective e-safety policy and related procedures.**
- **Providing effective management for staff and volunteers through supervision, support and training.**
- **Recruiting staff and volunteers safely, ensuring all necessary checks are made.**
- **Sharing information about child protection and good practice with children, parents, staff and volunteers.**
- **Sharing concerns with agencies who need to know, and involve parents and children appropriately.**

**Child Protection Officer**

**Here at (Insert your school name here) our nominated Child Protection Officer is (insert Child Protection Officer Name)**

**Recognising Child Abuse**

**Child abuse is defined by the NSPCC as any action by another person – adult or child – that causes significant harm to a child. It can be physical, sexual or emotional, but can just as often be about a lack of love, care and attention. We know that neglect, whatever form it takes, can be just as damaging to a child as physical abuse.**



**An abused child will often experience more than one type of abuse, as well as other difficulties in their lives. It often happens over a period of time, rather than being a one-off event. And it can increasingly happen online.**

**We estimate that over half a million children are abused in the UK each year.**

**There are 5 main types of abuse which are:**

- 1. Physical Abuse** - deliberately hurting a child causing injuries such as bruises, broken bones, burns or cuts.

**It isn't accidental - children who are physically abused suffer violence such as being hit, kicked, poisoned, burned, slapped or having objects thrown at them. Shaking or hitting babies can cause non-accidental head injuries (NAHI). Sometimes parents or carers will make up or cause the symptoms of illness in their child, perhaps giving them medicine they don't need and making the child unwell – this is known as fabricated or induced illness (FII).**

- 2. Emotional (mental) Abuse** - the ongoing emotional maltreatment or emotional neglect of a child. It's sometimes called psychological abuse and can seriously damage a child's emotional health and development.

**Emotional abuse can involve deliberately trying to scare or humiliate a child or isolating or ignoring them.**

**Children who are emotionally abused are usually suffering another type of abuse or neglect at the same time – but this isn't always the case.**

- 3. Sexual Abuse** - A child is sexually abused when they are forced or persuaded to take part in sexual activities. This doesn't have to be physical contact, and it can happen online. Sometimes the child won't understand that what's happening to them is abuse. They may not even understand that it's wrong.



**There are two different types of child sexual abuse. These are called contact abuse and non-contact abuse.**

**Contact abuse is where an abuser makes physical contact with a child, including penetration.**

**Non-contact abuse covers other acts where the abuser doesn't touch the child, such as grooming, exploitation, persuading children to perform sexual acts over the internet and flashing.**

- 4. **Bullying & Cyberbullying** - Bullying is behaviour that hurts someone else – such as name calling, hitting, pushing, spreading rumours, threatening or undermining someone.**

**It can happen anywhere – at school, at home or online. It's usually repeated over a long period of time and can hurt a child both physically and emotionally.**

**Bullying that happens online, using social networks, games and mobile phones, is often called cyberbullying. A child can feel like there's no escape because it can happen wherever they are, at any time of day or night.**

**Bullying includes:**

- **verbal abuse, such as name calling and gossiping**
- **non-verbal abuse, such as hand signs or text messages**
- **emotional abuse, such as threatening, intimidating or humiliating someone**
- **exclusion, such as ignoring or isolating someone**
- **undermining, by constant criticism or spreading rumours**
- **controlling or manipulating someone**
- **racial, sexual or homophobic bullying**
- **physical assaults, such as hitting and pushing**
- **making silent, hoax or abusive calls**
- **online or cyberbullying.**



**5. Neglect** - the ongoing failure to meet a child's basic needs and is the most common form of child abuse.

**A child may be left hungry or dirty, without adequate clothing, shelter, supervision, medical or health care.**

**A child may be put in danger or not protected from physical or emotional harm.**

**They may not get the love, care and attention they need from their parents.**

**A child who's neglected will often suffer from other abuse as well. Neglect is dangerous and can cause serious, long-term damage - even death.**

**Types of neglect include:**

- ***Physical neglect***- Failing to provide for a child's basic needs such as food, clothing or shelter. Failing to adequately supervise a child, or provide for their safety.
- ***Educational neglect***- Failing to ensure a child receives an education.
- ***Emotional neglect***- Failing to meet a child's needs for nurture and stimulation, perhaps by ignoring, humiliating, intimidating or isolating them. It's often the most difficult to prove.
- ***Medical neglect***- Failing to provide appropriate health care, including dental care and refusal of care or ignoring medical recommendations.

### **Procedure upon suspected abuse**

**No person at (Insert your school name here) are in a position to decide if abuse has occurred or taken place. We do however have a duty of care to act on any allegation or concerns that are raised through contact with appropriate authorities.**

**Any suspected abuse should be reported straight away to the Nominated Child Protection Officer (NCPO) who will then liaise with the School's Senior Instructor. In**



**instances where the abused is alleged to be caused by the NCPO then the next School's Senior Instructor should be contacted. Should a report be raised with the NCPO in relation to alleged abuse by the School's Senior Instructor, then the NCPO is duty bound to investigate without the School's Senior Instructors knowledge until all investigations are carried out.**

**When a report of abuse has been detailed we aim for an investigation to be carried out.**

**Any Criminal based reports will be redirected to the local police to investigate, Child Protection Issues will be reported to Children's Services (Local Authority) to investigate and should the report be in relation to poor practice by members of the school, this will follow a Disciplinary route carried out by the School's Senior Instructor.**

**In all cases the following information will be gathered and passed on to the relevant authorities:**

- **The child's name, current age and date of birth**
- **The child's residence address and contact telephone number**
- **Details of the concerns raised and by whom, this will include the allegation(s) made**
- **Any factual details will be provided (i.e. visual information such as bruising)**
- **Witness details will be provided where possible**
- **Details of anyone who has been consulted in relation to this matter**

## **Taking Photographs or Video of Classes**

**Any photographs or videos taken by Instructors will only be done for the purpose of coach assisting and promotion. This will only be done with consent being received via parents/carers. Parents/carers are made aware of this via the membership forms upon joining to ensure that we have a clear policy on this.**



**Parents/Carers are also permitted to take photos and video footage as long as their child is within the class itself and no other objections are raised.**

### **Confidentiality**

**We strongly follow the Data Protection Act and as a result any information passed onto us will be held in strict confidence. The information will ONLY be passed on should a need arise that concerns the potential safety of a child. In these instances it will only be passed on to the relevant authorities.**

**Should you feel that you would prefer to not share information with us directly for whatever reason, please feel free to contact your Local Police, Your Local Authority Children's Services the NSPCC (0808 800 5000) or Child line (0800 1111). Any of these services will be able to help you and provide you with the same level of confidence as us.**

**DO NOT CONTACT the alleged abuser, this will be left to the appropriate authorities to ensure any issues are dealt with in the correct and appropriate manner.**

**We are committed to reviewing our policy and good practice annually.**

**This policy was last reviewed on \_\_\_\_\_(date)**

**By\_\_\_\_\_**

**Position in Martial Arts School \_\_\_\_\_**

