

Brighton Dance Academy – Statement of Commitment to Child Safety

Brighton Dance Academy is committed to the safety and wellbeing of all children and young people. The safety of children and young people is the primary focus of our care, planning and decision-making.

Brighton Dance Academy has **zero tolerance for child abuse** and is committed to providing a **child safe environment** where children and young people are safe, feel safe, and are supported to speak up about matters that affect them. Children's voices are respected and taken seriously.

Particular attention is given to the **cultural safety, participation and empowerment** of:

- Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children
- Children from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds
- Children with a disability

Brighton Dance Academy recognises that child safety is a **shared responsibility**. Every person involved in the Academy — including staff, contractors, volunteers, parents, guardians and students — has a responsibility to understand the important role they play, individually and collectively, in ensuring that the safety and wellbeing of all children and young people is upheld at all times.

Brighton Dance Academy's Principles for Child Safety

In its planning, decision-making and operations, Brighton Dance Academy will:

1. Take a **preventative, proactive and participatory approach** to child safety
2. **Value and empower children** to participate in decisions that affect their lives
3. Foster a **culture of openness** that supports safe disclosure of risks of harm to children
4. Respect diversity in cultures and child-rearing practices while keeping **child safety paramount**
5. Provide **clear written guidance** on appropriate conduct and behaviour towards children
6. Engage only **suitable and appropriately screened people** to work with children and provide high-quality staff supervision and professional development
7. Ensure children know **who to talk to** if they are worried or feel unsafe, and that they are supported and encouraged to raise concerns
8. **Report suspected abuse, neglect or mistreatment promptly** to the appropriate authorities
9. **Share information appropriately and lawfully** with other organisations where the safety and wellbeing of children is at risk
10. **Value the input of and communicate regularly with families and carers**