



Child protection policy

Throughout this document, Docklands Shoujin Karate is referred to as DSK.

DSK recognises the need to make provision for children and young persons, and acknowledges its moral and legal responsibility to ensure a duty of care to safeguard and promote the welfare of children and is committed to ensuring safeguarding practice reflects statutory responsibilities, government guidance and complies with best practice and Shoujin Karate Kai as a member of the English Karate Federations requirements.

The policy recognises that the welfare and interests of children are paramount in all circumstances. It aims to ensure that regardless of age, gender, religion or beliefs, ethnicity, disability, sexual orientation or socio-economic background, all children

- have a positive and enjoyable experience of sport at DSK in a safe and child centred environment
- are protected from abuse whilst participating in Karate training or outside of the activity.

By adopting best practice DSK will help to safeguard those participants from potential abuse as well as protecting coaches and other adults in positions of responsibility from any potential allegation of abuse.

This document provides procedures and guidance to all DSK members whether participating members, or working in a voluntary or professional capacity.

As part of our safeguarding policy DSK will:

- promote and prioritise the safety and wellbeing of children and young people
- ensure everyone understands their roles and responsibilities in respect of safeguarding and is provided with appropriate learning opportunities to recognise, identify and respond to signs of abuse, neglect and other safeguarding concerns relating to children and young people
- ensure that all incidents of poor practice, and allegations of abuse are taken seriously and responded to swiftly and appropriately.
- appropriate action is taken in the event of incidents/concerns of abuse and support provided to the individual/s who raise or disclose the concern
- ensure that confidential, detailed and accurate records of all safeguarding concerns are maintained and securely stored
- prevent the employment/deployment of unsuitable individuals by ensuring that all instructors are DBS checked and certified.
- ensure robust safeguarding arrangements and procedures are in operation.

The policy and procedures will be widely promoted and are mandatory for everyone involved in DSK. Failure to comply with the policy and procedures will be addressed without delay and may ultimately result in dismissal/exclusion from the organisation.

Good Practice Guidelines

Child abuse, particularly sexual abuse, can arouse strong emotions in those facing such a situation. It is important to understand these feelings and not allow them to interfere with a judgement about the appropriate action to take.

Abuse can occur within many situations including the home, school and the sporting environment. It is a fact of life that some individuals will actively seek employment or voluntary work with young people in order to harm them.

Any person/s involved at DSK in a coaching, volunteer capacity or in any other capacity that has regular contact with children or young people can be an important link in identifying cases where a young person may need protection.

When a child enters the club having experienced abuse outside of the sporting environment, sport can play a crucial role in improving the child's self esteem. In such instances the club must work with the appropriate agencies to ensure the child receives the required support.

All those involved in martial arts should be encouraged to demonstrate exemplary behaviour in order to safeguard children and young people and protect themselves from false allegations. The following are common sense examples of how to create a positive culture and climate within DSK.

- Always work in an open environment where possible, ensuring at minimum open access to training areas and encouraging open communication.
- Treat all children and young people/ disabled adults equally with respect and dignity.
- Placing the safety and welfare of the child or young person first above the development or performance or competition.
- Maintaining a safe and appropriate distance with students. (It is not appropriate for any coach or staff member to have an intimate relationship or share a room with students)
- Encourage open communication by building mutual respect and trust
- Making sport fun, enjoyable and promoting fair play.
- Ensuring all coaching staff and admin/ committee members are up to date with insurances, qualifications, certifications and technical skills.
- Involving parents/ carers wherever possible (e.g. for the responsibility of their child in changing rooms/ toilets/ outside of the dojo, or during travel for competition)
- Ensuring where possible at least two adult staff members in attendance in any junior class.
- Try to be an excellent role model including not smoking or drinking alcohol in the company of young people.
- Give enthusiastic and constructive feedback rather than negative criticism.
- Recognising the developmental needs and capacity of young people and disabled adults- avoiding excessive training or competition and not pushing them against their will.
- Securing parental consent in writing to act in '*loco parentis*' if the need arises to give permission for the administration of first aid.
- Keep a written record of any injury that occurs, along with details of any treatment given.
- Requesting written parental consent if club officials are required to transport young people in their cars.
- Children and young people will not be allowed full contact sparring, and when practicing sparring drills or partner work should be matched by size/ weight where possible.
- DSK coaches will ensure that appropriate protection is worn by students appropriate to the lesson given to minimise injury.
- DSK will endeavour to ensure avoidance of rough, physical or sexually provocative games, including horseplay
- DSK will endeavour to ensure to not allow or engage in any form of inappropriate touching, or the use of any inappropriate language or allow to go unchallenged.
- DSK will not allow any sexually suggestive comments to be made to a child by any persons even in fun.
- DSK will ensure coaches refrain from reducing a child to tears purposefully as a form of control.
- Coaches should not allow children to stay at their home unsupervised whilst in the remit of coaching or DSK business. This may not apply in cases of personal relationships totally

outside of any DSK business or activity, where the express wishes and consent of parents are in place. (i.e personal friendships and family relationships)

Action:

- Should anyone have any concerns about **poor practice** or a suspected case of abuse, the matter should be raised to DSK’s child protection officer;

_____ date from: _____

If following consideration the allegation is clearly about poor practice, the Child protection officer will deal with it as a misconduct issue.

If the allegation of poor practice pertains to the child protection officer, or if there is feeling that the matter has not been handled adequately, and concerns remain, it should be reported to the relevant association officer who will decide how to deal with the allegation and whether or not to initiate disciplinary proceedings.

- Should anyone have any suspicion that a **child has been abused** by a member of staff or volunteer or any other persons, the matter should be raised to DSK’s child protection officer; who will take such steps as considered appropriate to ensure the safety of the person in question or any other child or young person that may be at risk.
- The child protection officer will refer the allegation to the social services department from where it may be escalated if required.
- Every effort should be made to ensure that confidentiality is maintained for all concerned. Information should be passed on a need to know basis only.
- The same procedure should be implemented where cases of suspected bullying is taking place.

Monitoring

The policy will be reviewed every year as part of the AGM, or in the following circumstances:

- changes in legislation and/or government guidance
- as required by any governing body such as the English Karate Federation, or collaborative organisation such as Active Newham.
- as a result of any other significant change or event.

Signed: DSK Chair : _____ Date: _____

DSK Secretary; _____ Date: _____