

Safeguarding Children & Child Protection Policy

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East Coast Gymnastics has a professional duty to provide children and vulnerable adults with appropriate safety and protection. As the welfare of the child/vulnerable adult is paramount, we are committed to providing safe equipment and facilities so that children/vulnerable adults may participate in courses/programmes in a secure environment. Additionally, we promote ethical behaviour, providing children/vulnerable adults with a sense of being valued. On this basis, we aim to ensure safe recruitment practices are always followed, to establish the suitability of personnel to work with children and/or vulnerable adults.

This approach is in line with, and strictly adheres to, the British Gymnastics Policy in this area. This can be found by accessing www.british-gymnastics.org, and is the overarching approach to all child and vulnerable adult protection for the sport.

It is ultimately the responsibility of the Club Administrator, to ensure that this policy is published and accessible to all personnel, gymnasts and any relevant third parties. However, the coaches themselves are responsible for ensuring this information is fully understood by their gymnasts who commence courses/programmes in their area.

In order to provide safety, protection and security to children/vulnerable adults throughout our operations, we will adhere to our child/vulnerable adult protection policy/statement and aim to:

- Protect all children and vulnerable adults from abuse, whatever their age, culture, disability, gender, language, ethnic origin, religious beliefs or sexuality
- raise awareness of child and vulnerable adult protection issues and promote good practice
- conduct risk assessments to minimise potential hazards to children's and vulnerable adults' welfare
- provide support to gymnasts who have been abused and act proactively by preventing any similar incidents through risk assessment
- ensure all personnel fully understand their responsibilities and are provided with the appropriate training/regular updates of the legislation.

In achieving our policy aims and being proactive, we have developed procedures related to the recruitment of personnel and how allegations of child/vulnerable adult abuse should be dealt with. In light of this, we implement safe recruitment practices, in checking the suitability of personnel to work with children and vulnerable adults.

Should you wish to discuss any matter or voice a grievance in relation to the above in confidence, please contact the current welfare officer whose details are available on the latest introductory booklet or displayed as you came in. or, alternatively, gymnasts may follow the Gymnast Complaints Procedure

These can all be found in detail by accessing the BG policy at the website above. All relevant contact details and responsibilities are fully detailed as part of this policy.