

Dance Stables

Code of Conduct for Parents, Carers and Visitors

This Code of Conduct is an unsigned agreement between the Parent, Carer, Visitor and Dance Stables.

At Dance Stables we are very proud and fortunate to have a very dedicated and supportive DS Dance Family. All DS staff, parents and carers all recognise that the education and safety of our children is a partnership between us.

We expect our DS Dance Family to respect our DS ethos, set a good example of their own behaviour both at DS Academies/Schools and when accompanying classes at DS Events.

As a partnership we are all aware of the importance of good working relationships and all recognise the importance of these relationships to equip our children with the necessary skills for their Dance education. For these reasons we will continue to welcome and encourage parents and carers to participate fully in the DS life, attending trips, events, helping as chaperones etc.

The purpose of this code of conduct is to provide the expectations around the conduct of all parents, carers and visitors connected to Dance Stables.

We are committed to resolving difficulties in a constructive manner, through an open and positive dialogue. However we understand that everyday misunderstandings can cause frustrations and have a negative impact on our relationships. Where issues arise or misconceptions take place, please contact Dance Stables Director, Cara, who will be available to meet with you and go through the issue and hopefully resolve it.

This code aims to clarify the types of behaviour that will not be tolerated and seeks parental agreement to these expectations. The code of conduct also sets out the actions Dance Stables can take should this code be ignored or where breaches occur.

Behaviour that will not be tolerated:

- Disruptive behaviour which interferes or threatens to interfere with any of DS normal operation or activities at a DS location or event.
- Any inappropriate behaviour at a DS location or event.
- Using loud or offensive language or displaying temper.
- Threatening in any way, a member of staff, visitor, fellow parent/carers or child.
- Damaging or destroying DS property.
- Sending abusive or threatening emails or text/voicemail/phone messages or other written communications (including social media) to anyone within the DS Dance Family.
- Defamatory, offensive or derogatory comments regarding Dance Stables or any of the pupils/parents/staff at Dance Stables on Facebook or other sites
- The use of physical, verbal or written aggression towards another adult or child. This includes physical punishment of your own child at a DS location.
- Approaching someone else's child in order to discuss or chastise them because of the actions of this child towards their own child. (Such an approach to a child may be seen to be an assault on that child and may have legal consequences)

- Smoking, taking illegal drugs or the consumption of alcohol at a DS location (Alcohol may only be consumed during authorised events)

Should **any** of the above occur at a DS location, event or in connection with Dance Stables, Dance Stables may feel it is necessary to take action by contacting the appropriate authorities or consider banning the offending adult from entering a DS location.

Thank you for abiding by this code at Dance Stables. Together we create a positive and uplifting environment not only for the children but also all who work and visit Dance Stables.

It is important for parents and carers to make sure any persons collecting their children are aware of this policy.

What happens if someone ignores or breaks the code?

In the event of any parent/carer or visitor of DS breaking, this code then proportionate actions will be taken as follows:

In cases where the unacceptable behaviour is considered to be a serious and potentially criminal matter, the concerns will in the first instance be referred to the Police. This will include any or all cases of threats or violence and actual violence to any child or staff at Dance Stables. This will also include anything that could be seen as a sign of harassment of any member of the DS Family, such as any form of insulting social media post or any form of social media cyber bullying. In cases where evidence suggests that behaviour would be tantamount to libel or slander, then Dance Stables will refer the matter to the County Councils Legal Team for further action. In cases where the code of conduct has been broken but the breach was not libellous, slanderous or criminal matter, then the school will send out a formal letter/email to the parent/carer with an invite to a meeting.

If the parent/carer refuses to attend the meeting then the school will write to the parent/carer and ask them to stop the behaviour causing the concern and warn that if they do not they may be banned from all DS classes and events. If after this behaviour continues, the parent/carer will again be written to and informed that a ban is now in place.

Note: (1) a ban from Dance Stables can be introduced without having to go through all the steps offered above in more serious cases. All previously scheduled lessons will be terminated with no refund issued.

Issues of conduct with the use of Social Media

Most people take part in online activities and social media. It's fun, interesting and keeps us connected.

Dance Stables has a Facebook, Instagram, Youtube and Twitter page which allows parents to receive and respond to messages about DS events. We encourage you to positively participate if you wish.

Within these spaces however we ask that you use common sense when discussing Dance Stables life online.

'Think before you post' We ask that social media, whether public or private, should not be used to fuel campaigns and voice complaints against Dance Stables, DS staff, parents or children.

We take very seriously inappropriate use of social media by a parent to publicly humiliate or criticise another parent, member of staff or child.

If parents have any concerns about their child in relation to Dance Stables as we have said above they should:

1. Initially contact the class teacher.
2. If the concern remains they should contact the DS Director.
3. If still unresolved, the DS Director will go through the complaints procedure

They should not use social media as a medium to air any concerns or grievances.

Online activity which we consider inappropriate:

- Identifying or posting images/videos of children
- Abusive or personal comments about staff, children or other parents
- Bringing Dance Stables in disrepute
- Posting defamatory or libellous comments
- Emails circulated or sent directly with abusive or personal comments about staff or children
- Using social media to publicly challenge DS policies or discuss issues about individual children or members of staff
- Threatening behaviour, such as verbally intimidating staff, or using bad language
- Breaching DS security procedures

At Dance Stables we take our safeguarding responsibilities seriously and will deal with any reported incidents appropriately in line with the actions outlined above.