

Club Safeguarding Policy

Last Updated - 10/09/2024

Purpose

The purpose of this document is to set out how Martial Arts East protects [children and young person's /and or/ adults at risk] from harm during their training within the club. This includes harm arising from abuse of all kinds, including sexual, physical and emotional abuse, neglect, bullying and any other forms of violence or exploitation.

This policy lays out Martial Arts East responsibilities and the reporting mechanisms, to ensure that [instructors], parents, students and members of the public are confident reporting a concern and, for staff, to take appropriate action.

To be clear, Safeguarding is defined as "protecting a persons' health, wellbeing and human rights, and enabling them to live free from harm, abuse and neglect". In martial arts, this will typically apply to children and young persons, and adults at risk.



MARTIAL ARTS EAST



Martial Arts East Chief Instructor Name: Danny Jordan-Land Chief Instructor Membership Number: 32807 Telephone Number: 01603 865426

> Mobile Number: 07540 842889 E-Mail: <u>info@martialartseast.co.uk</u> Website: www.martialartseast.co.uk

Martial Arts East & BMABA National Designated Safeguarding Lead: Giovanni Soffietto Telephone Number: 01798 306546 (ext. 201)



Scope Of This Policy

This policy shall be effective and mandatory for all [staff, instructors, volunteers, visiting instructors. This policy shall also be effective for all visitors and parents of Martial Arts East.

Policy Statement

Martial Arts East believes that everyone we come into contact with, regardless of age, gender identity, disability, sexual orientation or ethnic origin has the right to be protected from all forms of harm, abuse, neglect and exploitation. Martial Arts East will not tolerate abuse and exploitation by staff or associated personnel. Martial Arts East remains committed to ensuring the effective prevention, reporting and response to any safeguarding concerns raised or detected.

Prevention

In order to provide vulnerable groups with the best possible experience and opportunities within Karate, Martial Arts East operates in line with the BMABA national safeguarding policy. This includes ensuring best practice is met at all times in relation to safeguarding and risk management. A core part of Martial Arts East prevention strategy is to ensure that the following is met in terms of minimum best practice guidance at all times;

 Instructors are expected to comply with BMABA association national frameworks and regulatory guidelines in respect of minimum standards, best practice and compulsory safeguarding obligations.



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- Instructors must always hold the minimum grade required to competently and technically deliver the class in question, with additional qualifications as necessary for specialist styles or roles.
- Instructors must all hold the necessary Public Liability insurance, a valid first aid qualification and both an enhanced DBS check within 3 years from date of issue, and an in-date safeguarding qualification relevant to the group(s) being taught.
- Treat all young persons aged under 18 years of age, and all vulnerable adults, with respect, dignity and courtesy.
- Treat all children and / or vulnerable adults equally.
- Always put the welfare of children and / or vulnerable adults first.
- Always work in an open environment avoiding any isolation, unobserved situation, encouraging an open and transparent club community.
- Keep physical contact to an absolute minimum.
- Avoid being alone with a child and / or vulnerable adult.
- Where physical contact is essential as part of the safe and structured learning process of the art, discipline or sport being practiced, the instructor and/or teaching person must only do so whilst remaining appropriate, non-intrusive and ensuring that where physical contact is essential its kept to a minimum.
- The involvement of parents / guardians is encouraged wherever possible, provided safeguarding of children and / or vulnerable adults remains the top priority and that any adult may not be given the opportunity to cause harm, distress or abuse to any children and / or vulnerable adults present.
- Not take photographs, videos or create any other forms of media featuring any children and / or vulnerable adults without written consent from the carer, guardian or parents in advance.
- Remain an excellent role model both in and out of the dojo. This includes not smoking, drinking alcohol or using any foul language in front of any children and / or vulnerable adults.
- No instructor and/or club official should have any communication with children and / or vulnerable adults via any forms of social media.



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- Recognise the development needs and capacity of the children and / or vulnerable adults in the class and not risk sacrificing welfare or safety for the club or instructor's personal gain.
- In relation to the above this also means avoiding excessive training and / or competitions and not pushing the student if they are not fully confident.
- Keep thorough records of any injuries or near misses that have occurred, along with details of any treatment given and further communication had with parents / guardians and/or children and / or vulnerable adults.
- Follow association guidelines and other association policy relating to good practice or best practice

Martial Arts East remains committed to ensuring prevention via professional, competent club governance at all times.

Raising Concerns Or Making A Disclosure

Martial Arts East will always ensure that in any case where a child or vulnerable adult might directly confide to any form of abuse, that the club **must** take **immediate** steps to safeguard that person effectively. Where concerns are raised by a third party, or by suspicions held by the instructor or club, the below checklist shall be maintained wherever possible but in all instances, the club will escalate and report in full on all occasions.

If a child or vulnerable adults indicates that they are being abused, the instructor to whom the disclosure is made will;



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- stay calm so as not to frighten the child or vulnerable adult.
- reassure the child or vulnerable adult that they are not to blame and that it was right to inform.
- listen to the child or vulnerable adult, showing that they are being taken seriously.
- keep questions to a minimum so that there is a clear and accurate understanding of what has been
 said. The law is very strict and child / vulnerable adult abuse cases have been dismissed where it is
 felt that the child or vulnerable adult has been led or words and ideas have been suggested during
 questioning. Accordingly, the instructor must only ask questions to clarify details not to question
 further.
- inform the child or vulnerable adult that the instructor will have to inform other people about what they have disclosed. The instructor must ensure the child or vulnerable adult understands this is in confidence, on a needs-must basis and is to help stop the abuse continuing.
- safety of the child or vulnerable adult is paramount. If the child or vulnerable adult needs urgent medical attention, the instructor will call an ambulance, inform the doctors of the concern and ensure they are made aware that this is a child protection / safeguarding issue.
- record all information
- report the incident to the club/welfare officer and, where appropriate to the association without delay



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BMABA
REGISTERED INSTRUCTOR

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If the instructor / club is not clear on what action is required and there is a real or immediate threat to the child or vulnerable adult, they should contact the Police on 999. Where there is confusion on what should happen next, the instructor should not delay by contacting the association and should instead contact a relevant statutory authority, such as the local authority designated officer (LADO) or the NSPCC on their 24 hour help line, the number of which will be publicly available.

NSPCC 24 hour helpline number 0808 800 5000 and (LADO) Norfolk County Council Children Services Number 0344 800 8020

Key Contacts

Key contacts for Martial Arts East are as follows;

Chief Instructor: Danny Jordan-Land

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In the event that you are not confident raising your concerns with us, you can also raise immediate safeguarding concerns or complaints to our association, the British Martial Arts & Boxing Association (BMABA) for a confidential and professional response. The BMABA's lead safeguarding details are available below;

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