

STUBBINGTON KARATE ACADEMY

CHILD PROTECTION POLICY



All children have the right to grow up in a safe and happy environment. It is the intention of Stubbington Karate Academy to take all reasonable steps to ensure that the welfare of children is safeguarded and that their safety is preserved.

We in Stubbington Karate Academy have a primary responsibility for the care, welfare and safety of the students in our charge, and we will carry out this duty through our care policy, which aims to provide a caring, supportive and safe environment, valuing individuals for their unique talents and abilities, with the aim that all our young students can learn and develop to their full potential.

One way in which we seek to protect our pupils is by helping them learn about the risks of possible abuse, helping them to recognise unwelcome behaviour in others and acquire the confidence and skills they need to keep themselves safe.

Dojo instructors have been subject to appropriate background checks. The senior instructor of Stubbington Karate Academy has also adopted a Code of Practice for our behaviour towards pupils.

Parents will be asked for their permission to use photographs and video taken in the Academy for the purposes of promotional displays, parent memos, local and national press, web site and email. External uses will not identify individual children by name. The Academy cannot however be held accountable for photographs or video footage taken by parents or members of the public at Academy events.

Parents will be asked if there is any Court Orders pertaining to the family that the Academy may need to know about, in confidence, to protect their children and meet their needs e.g. Parental Responsibility Order, Non-Molestation Order, Residence Order, or similar.

The purpose of the following procedures on Child Protection is to protect our students by ensuring that everyone who assists in our Academy - teachers, non-teaching staff and volunteers - has clear guidance on the action which is required where abuse or neglect of a child is suspected. The overriding concern of all caring adults must be the care, welfare and safety of the child, and the welfare of each child is our paramount consideration.

The problem of child abuse will not be ignored by anyone who works in our Academy, and we know that some forms of child abuse are also a criminal offence.



What is child abuse?

We use the following definition:

Neglect - the persistent or significant neglect of a child, or the failure to protect a child from exposure to any kind of danger, including cold or starvation, or persistent failure to carry out important aspects of care, resulting in the significant impairment of the child's health or development, including non-organic failure to thrive.

Physical - physical injury to a child, whether deliberately inflicted or knowingly not prevented.

Sexual - the sexual exploitation of a child or young person for an adult's or another young person's own sexual gratification; the involvement of children or young people in sexual activities of any kind (including exposure to pornography) which they do not understand, to which they are unable to give informed consent or that violate normal family roles.

Emotional - persistent or significant emotional ill treatment or rejection, resulting in severe adverse effects on the emotional, physical and/or behavioural development of a child.

Bullying is a highly distressing and damaging form of abuse and is not tolerated in our school.

All dojo staff are vigilant at all times to the possibility of bullying occurring, and will take immediate steps to stop it happening, to protect and reassure the victim and to discipline the bully. Parents of both victim and bully may be personally contacted immediately bullying behaviour is identified. Any complaint by a parent that their child is, or may be, being bullied will be fully investigated by the senior dojo instructor for child protection, and if substantiated team action will be taken to protect the victim. This will usually include ensuring that another child or small group of children befriends and supports the child being bullied during the class.

A parent making a complaint about bullying will have a personal response from the senior dojo instructor within one week of making the complaint, indicating the investigation that has been carried out and the action being taken. The sanctions taken against a student who bullies will depend on the seriousness of the case, but may include the loss of any privileges or position of responsibility he/she holds in the Academy. His/her behaviour will be carefully monitored until the senior dojo instructor is satisfied that the problem has stopped.

If a pupil's bullying behaviour persists, the second stage will be to expel the culprit from the Academy forthwith.