



This Child Safety Policy has been prepared by **Starstruck Dance Competition**. to ensure the safety of all children who attend our events. The Child Safety Code of Conduct is to be followed by all who attend or are involved in the competition.

## **Purpose**

Our Child Safety Policy sets out the expected behaviour of adults around all children and young people who are involved in our dance competitions. The Child Protection Policy applies to:

- all committee members
- volunteers, parents and carers
- dance teachers, dance school staff and volunteers
- contractors and service providers
- competitors 18 years old and above
- any other adult involved in child connected work.
- The Child Safety Policy lists behaviours that are acceptable and those that are unacceptable. It provides a high-level statement of professional boundaries, ethical behaviour and acceptable and unacceptable relationships.
- The Child Safety Policy applies to all physical and online environments used by competitors.
- When individuals are clear about behavioural expectations, they are much more likely to act appropriately with each other and with children. When everyone is educated about the Child Safety Policy and the reasons it is so important to uphold, the competition environment becomes much more transparent, and people, more accountable for their behaviour. Above all, a Child Safety Policy helps to protect children from harm.
- The Policy is made available via the Starstruck Dance Competition website. This Child Safety Policy outlines appropriate standards of behaviour for all adults towards competitors and any other child involved in the competition. The Code serves to protect all children associated with the competition, reduce any opportunities for abuse or harm to occur, and promote child safety in the dance competition environment. It provides guidance on how to best support children and how to avoid or better manage difficult situations.

Starstruck Dance Competition has the following expectations of behaviours and boundaries for all adults interacting with children within our dance festival. This includes all committee members, volunteers, parents/guardians, dance teachers/staff/volunteers, contractors and service providers, competitors 18 years old and above and any other adult involved in child connected work. Starstruck Dance Competition has endorsed this Child Safety Code of Conduct.



## **ACCEPTABLE**

- Always uphold our commitment to child safety and adhere to our Child Safety and Wellbeing Policy.
- Report any concerns about child safety immediately to an executive member of the committee.
- Where an allegation of child abuse is made, ensure as quickly as possible that the child involved is safe.
- Call the Police on 000 if you have immediate concerns for a child's safety.
- Promote the safety, welfare and wellbeing of children.
- Provide age-appropriate supervision for children.
- Behave as a positive role model to children.
- Treat all children with respect.
- Promote the cultural safety, participation and empowerment of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children, children from linguistically or culturally diverse backgrounds, children with a disability, international children, children who are unable to live at home and all lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer, intersex and asexual (LGBTIQ+) children and families.
- Use positive and affirming language towards children.
- Encourage children to 'have a say' and then listen to them with respect.
- Respect cultural, religious and political differences.
- Help provide an open, safe and supportive environment for all children to interact, and socialise.
- As far as practicable, ensure that adults are not alone with a child. If this is not possible, interactions between an adult and a child are to be in an open space or in line of sight of another adult.
- Intervene when children are engaging in inappropriate bullying behaviour towards others or acting in a humiliating or vilifying way. Notify any of our volunteers and staff if you feel uncomfortable doing so.
- Respect the privacy of children and their families and only disclose information to people who have a need to know.

## **UNACCEPTABLE**

- Ignore or disregard any concerns, suspicions or disclosures of children abuse or harm.
- Develop a relationship with children that could be seen as favouritism or amount to 'grooming' behaviour (for example, the offering of gifts or special treatment for specific children).
- Engage in any form of inappropriate behaviour towards children or expose children to such behaviour.
- Use prejudice, oppressive behaviour or inappropriate language with children.
- Express personal views on cultures, race or sexuality in the presence of children or discriminate against any child based on culture, race, ethnicity, disability, age, gender, sexuality or vulnerability