

ATHERSTONE KARATE CLUB



Safeguarding Policy

This Policy applies to all Staff, including instructors, parent helpers, volunteers and students or anyone working on behalf of Atherstone Karate Club. Atherstone Karate Club deems that anyone under the age of 18 is a child under the Children Act 1989

The purpose of this policy is:

- To protect children and young people who receive services from Atherstone Karate Club.
- To provide all staff and volunteers with the core principles that underline our approach to safeguarding of children.

Atherstone Karate Club believe that no child should ever experience any form of abuse. We have a responsibility to promote the welfare of all children and young people as well as keeping them safe. We are committed to practice in a way that protects them.

Legal Framework

This policy has been created with the assistance of the legal framework that exists and has been drawn up on the basis of the law and guidance that seeks to protect children, namely:

- The Children Act 1989 & 2004
- United Convention of the Rights of a Child 1991
- Data Protection Act 1998
- Sexual Offences Act 2003
- Protection of Freedoms Act 2012
- Procedures set out by the Shukokai Karate Association (Governing Body)
- Relevant government guidance on safeguarding children

We recognise the following:

- The welfare of a child is paramount as defined in the Children Act 1989.
- All children regardless of age, gender, disability, racial heritage, religious belief, sexual orientation or identity, have a right to equal protection from all forms of harm or abuse.
- Some children are additionally vulnerable because of the impact of previous experiences, their level of dependency, communication needs or other issues.
- Working in partnership with children, young people, their parents, carers and other agencies is essential in promoting young people's welfare.

We aim to keep children and young people safe by:

- Valuing them, listening to them and respecting them.
- Adopting child protection practices through procedures and a code of conduct for staff and volunteers.
- Developing and implementing an effective e-safety policy and related procedures.
- Providing effective management for staff and volunteers through supervision, support and training.
- Recruiting staff and volunteers safely, ensuring all necessary checks are made.

- Sharing information about child protection and good practice with children, parents, staff and volunteers.
- Sharing concerns with agencies who need to know, and involve parents and children appropriately.

Recognising Child Abuse

Child abuse is defined by the NSPCC as any action by another person – adult or child – that causes significant harm to a child.

It can be physical, sexual or emotional, but can just as often be about a lack of love, care and attention. We know that neglect, whatever form it takes, can be just as damaging to a child as physical abuse.

An abused child will often experience more than one type of abuse, as well as other difficulties in their lives. It often happens over a period of time, rather than being a one-off event. And it can increasingly happen online.

The NSPCC estimate that over half a million children are abused in the UK each year.

There are 5 main types of abuse which are:

1. **Physical Abuse** - deliberately hurting a child causing injuries such as bruises, broken bones, burns or cuts. It isn't accidental - children who are physically abused suffer violence such as being hit, kicked, poisoned, burned, and slapped or having objects thrown at them.

Shaking or hitting babies can cause non-accidental head injuries (NAHI). Sometimes parents or carers will make up or cause the symptoms of illness in their child, perhaps giving them medicine they don't need and making the child unwell – this is known as fabricated or induced illness (FII).

2. **Emotional (mental) Abuse** - the ongoing emotional maltreatment or emotional neglect of a child. It's sometimes called psychological abuse and can seriously damage a child's emotional health and development.

Emotional abuse can involve deliberately trying to scare or humiliate a child or isolating or ignoring them. Children who are emotionally abused are usually suffering another type of abuse or neglect at the same time – but this isn't always the case.

3. **Sexual Abuse** - A child is sexually abused when they are forced or persuaded to take part in sexual activities. This doesn't have to be physical contact, and it can happen online. Sometimes the child won't understand that what's happening to them is abuse. They may not even understand that it's wrong.

There are two different types of child sexual abuse. These are called contact abuse and non-contact abuse.

Contact abuse is where an abuser makes physical contact with a child, including penetration.

Non-contact abuse covers other acts where the abuser doesn't touch the child, such as grooming, exploitation, persuading children to perform sexual acts over the Internet and flashing.

4. **Bullying & Cyberbullying** - Bullying is behaviour that hurts someone else – such as name calling, hitting, pushing, spreading rumours, threatening, or undermining someone.

It can happen anywhere – at school, at home or online. It's usually repeated over a long period of time and can hurt a child both physically and emotionally.

Bullying that happens online, using social networks, games, and mobile phones, is often called cyberbullying. A child can feel like there's no escape because it can happen wherever they are, at any time of day or night.

Bullying includes:

- verbal abuse, such as name calling and gossiping.

- non-verbal abuse, such as hand signs or text messages.
- emotional abuse, such as threatening, intimidating, or humiliating someone.
- exclusion, such as ignoring or isolating someone.
- undermining, by constant criticism or spreading rumours.
- controlling or manipulating someone.
- racial, sexual, or homophobic bullying.
- physical assaults, such as hitting and pushing.
- making silent, hoax or abusive calls.
- Online or cyberbullying.

5. **Neglect** - the ongoing failure to meet a child's basic needs and is the most common form of child abuse.

A child may be left hungry or dirty, without adequate clothing, shelter, supervision, medical or health care.

A child may be put in danger or not protected from physical or emotional harm. They may not get the love, care and attention they need from their parents.

A child who's neglected will often suffer from other abuse as well. Neglect is dangerous and can cause serious, long-term damage - even death.

Types of neglect include:

- **Physical neglect** - Failing to provide for a child's basic needs such as food, clothing, or shelter. Failing to adequately supervise a child or provide for their safety.
- **Educational neglect** - Failing to ensure a child receives an education.
- **Emotional neglect** - Failing to meet a child's needs for nurture and stimulation, perhaps by ignoring, humiliating, intimidating, or isolating them. It's often the most difficult to prove.
- **Medical neglect** - Failing to provide appropriate health care, including dental care and refusal of care, or ignoring medical recommendations.

Procedure upon suspected abuse

No person at Atherstone Karate Club is in a position to decide if abuse has occurred or taken place. We do however have a duty of care to act on any allegation or concerns that are raised through contact with appropriate authorities.

Any suspected abuse should be reported straight away to the Nominated Child Protection Officer (NCPO) who will then liaise with the clubs governing body (Shukokai Karate Association) Child Protection Officer.

In instances where the abuse is alleged to be caused by the NCPO then the Shukokai Karate Association's Child Protection Officer is contacted.

When a report of abuse has been detailed, we aim for an investigation to be carried out.

Any criminal based reports will be redirected to the local police to investigate, Child Protection issues will be reported to Children's Services (Local Authority) to investigate, and should the report be in relation to poor practice by members of the club, this will follow a disciplinary route carried out by the Shukokai Karate Association's Chief Instructor.

In all cases the following information will be gathered and passed on to the relevant authorities:

- The child's name, current age, and date of birth.
- The child's residence address and contact telephone number.
- Details of the concerns raised and by whom, this will include the allegation(s) made.
- Any factual details will be provided (i.e., visual information such as bruising).
- Witness details will be provided where possible.

- Details of anyone who has been consulted in relation to this matter.

Taking Photographs or Video of Classes

Any photographs or videos taken by Instructors will only be done for the purpose of coach assisting and promotion. This will only be done with consent being received via parents/carers. Parents/carers are made aware of this via the Pre-Activity Readiness Questionnaire form upon starting to ensure that we have a clear policy on this.

Parents/Carers are NOT permitted to take photos and video footage unless previously agreed with a senior club instructor and then only when no other child is in view, their child is within the class itself and no other objections are raised.

Confidentiality

We strongly follow the Data Protection Act and as a result any information passed onto us will be held in strict confidence.

The information will **ONLY** be passed on should a need arise that concerns the potential safety of a child.

In these instances, it will only be passed on to the relevant authorities.

Should you feel that you would prefer to not share information with us directly for whatever reason, please feel free to contact your local police, your local authority children's services, the NSPCC (0808 800 5000) or Child line (0800 1111). Any of these services will be able to help you and provide you with the same level of confidence as us.

DO NOT CONTACT the alleged abuser, this will be left to the appropriate authorities to ensure any issues are dealt with in the correct and appropriate manner.

Useful Contacts

Childline UK

Website: www.childline.org.uk

Telephone: 0800 1111

Criminal Records Bureau

Website: www.crb.gov.uk

Telephone: 0870 90 90 811

NSPCC Child Protection Helpline

Website: www.nspcc.org.uk

National Helpline 0808 800 5000

Welsh Helpline 0800 100 2524 (Mon-Fri 10am-6.00pm)

Asian Helpline 0800 096 7719

Deaf User's Textphone 0800 056 0686

NSPCC Child Protection in Sport Unit

Website: www.thecpsu.org.uk

Telephone: 0116 366 5626

Social Care & Support

Warwickshire County Council - 01926 414 144

Staffordshire County Council - 01827 782 004

Kidscape – Help with Bullying

Website: www.kidscape.org.uk

Telephone: 020 7823 5430

Please consult your telephone directory for the most relevant local numbers, these contact numbers and addresses are subject to change with little or no notice. Therefore, you should refer to your local directory or counsellor.

Safeguarding and Welfare Team



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Mark Ridler

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Nominated Child Protection Officer



Jason Collins

Jason Collins

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Deputy Child Protection Officer



Tracy Ridler

Tracy Ridler

Mobile: 0772 5211 122

Email: tracy@atherstonekarate.co.uk

Student Welfare Officer

Governing Body (Shukokai Karate Association) Safeguarding Officer

Malcolm Hudson, Telephone number: 01564 200639

Last updated by: (name and date) Mr Mark Ridler, April 2023

Frequency of review: Annually

Date of next review: April 2024