



Yorkshire Karate Academy Child Policy

We believe everyone has a role to play in safeguarding children from abuse. Dealing with concerns about child abuse and particularly child sexual abuse can be very disturbing therefore it's more important now than ever to protect children.

Abuse can occur within many situations including the home, school and the sporting environment. Some individuals will actively seek employment or voluntary work with children in order to harm them. Everyone working with YKA either in a paid off voluntary capacity, together with those working in affiliated organisations, has a role to play in safeguarding the welfare of children and preventing their abuse.

Yorkshire Karate Academy recognises its responsibilities both morally and legally under current legislation (including the Children Acts 1989 and 2004 to the Protection of Children (Scotland) Act 2005) and will use our best efforts to promote good practice to protect children.

The purpose of this policy statement is:

- To protect children and young people who receive YKA's services.
- To provide parents, staff and volunteers with the overarching principles that guides our approach to child protection.

This policy statement applies to anyone working on behalf of YKA.

We believe that:

- Children and young people should never experience abuse of any kind
- We have a responsibility to promote the welfare of all children and young people, to keep them safe and to practise in a way that protects them.

We recognise that:

- The welfare of the child is paramount
- All children, regardless of age, disability, gender reassignment, race, religion or belief, sex, or sexual orientation have a right to equal protection from all types 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 will seek to keep children and young people safe by:

- Valuing, listening to and respecting them

- Developing child protection and safeguarding policies and procedures which reflect best practice
- Using our safeguarding procedures to share concerns and relevant information with agencies who need to know, and involving children, young people, parents, families and carers appropriately (Local Area Child Protection Committees (LACPC)).
- Creating and maintaining an anti-bullying environment and ensuring that we have a policy and procedure to help us deal effectively with any bullying that does arise
- Developing and implementing an effective online safety policy and related procedures
- Sharing information about child protection and safeguarding best practice with children, their families, staff and volunteers
- Implementing a code of conduct for staff and volunteers
- Using our procedures to manage any allegations against staff and volunteers appropriately
- Ensuring that we have effective complaints and whistleblowing measures in place
- Ensuring that we provide a safe physical environment for our children, young people, staff and volunteers, by applying health and safety measures in accordance with the law and regulatory guidance
- Recording and storing information professionally and securely.

Category of abuse	Physical signs	Behavioural Signs
Physical Abuse	Unexplained and unusual bruising, finger, strap and bite marks, injuries, cigarette burns, fractures, scalds, missing teeth. Injuries that a child with limited mobility would find it difficult to get.	Fear of contact, aggression, temper, running away, fear of going home, reluctance to change or uncover body, depression, withdrawal, cowering, bullying or abuse of others.
Neglect	Constant hunger, ill-fitting or inappropriate clothes, weight change, untreated conditions, continual minor infections, failure to supply hearing aids, glasses and or inhalers.	Always being tired, late, absent, few friends, regularly left alone, seeks adult company or withdraws from people, stealing, no money, parent or carer not attending or interested.
Sexual abuse	Genital pain, itching, bleeding, bruising, discharge, stomach pains, discomfort, pregnancy, incontinence, urinary infections or STD's, thrush, anal pain on passing motions	Apparent fear of someone, nightmares, running away, age inappropriate sexually explicit knowledge or behaviour, bedwetting, eating problems, substance abuse, unexplained money or gifts, inappropriate masturbation, sexual approaches to others, sexual games with toys.
Bullying	Weight change, unexplained injuries and bruising, stomach and headaches, incontinence, disturbed sleep, hair pulled out.	Difficulty making friends, anxiety over school/football, truancy, withdrawn, depressed, anger, moodiness, suicide attempts, reduced performance, money or possessions reported as "lost", stealing from family, distress and anxiety on reading e-mails or texts.
Emotional Abuse	Weight change, lack of growth/development, unexplained speech disorders, self harm, clothing inappropriate for child's age, gender or culture.	Unable to play, fear of mistakes, fear of telling parents, withdrawn, unexplained speech and language difficulties, few friends.

Never assume that someone else has identified and acted on the problem.

Not acting is NEVER an option.