Solent Dance Festivals understands that the welfare of young people is paramount. It is the duty of the Festivals to provide a level of care to all young people attending and we believe that all young people, whatever their age, culture, disability, gender, language, ethnic origin and religious beliefs have the right to protection from abuse.

This policy relates to all those who attend the Festivals, in particular those volunteering and children under the age of 18.

Solent Dance Festivals’ policy and procedures are based on UK and international legislation and government guidance and take the following into consideration:

* The Children Act 1989 and 2004.
* Working Together to Safeguard Children 2015 and 2018.
* Childcare Act 2006
* The UN Convention on the Rights of the Child.

Solent Dance Festivals will adhere to the following procedures:

The Festivals use a local school and will ensure that a Risk Assessment will be carried out before each event.

All Festival volunteers responsible for providing safe environments for everyone attending / performing at the Festivals will have appropriate recruitment and induction procedures. The Festivals will ensure all relevant staff and chaperones are DBS checked, any volunteers without a DBS will not be left alone with a child. All volunteers must read and sign the Child Protection Policy.

All Festival personnel will wear a lanyard to identify them. All teachers/parents/guardians/carers are asked to report all incidents of any nature to anyone wearing a Festival lanyard. All reported incidents will be taken seriously and responded to swiftly and appropriately.

For the duration of the Festivals all teachers/parents/guardians/carers are responsible for the continuous care and supervision of their own children/pupils. This includes supervision throughout all Festival venues, practice and changing areas that may be provided. The Festivals cannot take responsibility for any property left unattended.

No unauthorised photography, audio or video recording of children and young people are allowed at the Festivals. Where parents/guardians/carers do not wish photos to be taken at all, then the responsible adult attending should ensure that their child is not included in official photos.

The Festivals’ Child Protection Policy is published on our Website and all parents/guardians/carers and teachers of entrants must sign as part of the registration form to say that they have read and understood the policy. The Child Protection Policy will be available to all parents/guardians/carers and teachers in paper format if requested.

By completing and signing the entry form all parents/guardians/carers and teachers of entrants under 18 confirm that they give (or have obtained) the necessary consents for the entrants to take part in the Festivals. Without consent the entry to the Festivals cannot be accepted.

The Policy will be reviewed every three years and amended as appropriate. Guidance from legislation and Governing Bodies will be sought as part of the review process.