

Hereford Yoga CIC

Child Protection Policy

1. Opening Statement and purpose

Hereford Yoga CIC acknowledges the duty of care to safeguard and promote the welfare of children and is committed to ensuring safeguarding practice reflects statutory responsibilities, government guidance and complies with best practice, Iyengar Yoga Association (UK) requirements and the mission and values of Hereford Yoga CIC (the Company).

The policy recognises that the welfare and interests of children are paramount in all circumstances and outlines the duties and responsibility of staff, volunteers and Directors working on behalf of Hereford Yoga CIC in relation to safeguarding children in order to ensure that:

regardless of age, gender, religion or beliefs, ethnicity, disability, sexual orientation or socio- economic background, all children have a positive and enjoyable experience of sport at Hereford Yoga CIC in a safe and child centered environment.

2. Context and structure of policy

The policy has been written following the guidelines of the Herefordshire Safeguarding framework. As advised by the framework, it also recognises the specific context of Hereford Yoga CIC in that:

- The company provides services specifically for children
- Training in yoga may involve touching children in order to adjust to maintain safety or perfect learning of yoga asanas
- There is the potential for teachers and trainers of children in any context to develop overly influential, inappropriate, exploitative or actively abusive relationships with children
- That the safe, supportive and involved relationship between effective teachers and students of yoga may result in

disclosures of abuse

3. Scope of policy and definitions

Whenever we say parents in this document we mean parents and carers and whenever we say child we mean children and young people aged 0 to 19 years old (up to 25 years old for young people with special needs).

Abuse may take the form of physical abuse, emotional abuse, sexual abuse/exploitation or neglect as well as exploitation for extremism/terrorism as defined by the Prevent agenda.

In the Department for Education (DfE) document: Working together to Safeguard Children, safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children is defined as:

- protecting children from maltreatment,
- preventing impairment of children's health or development,
- ensuring that children are growing up in circumstances consistent with the provision of safe and effective care; and
- taking action to enable all children to have the best outcomes.

To address these priorities and recognize the specific context of the Company, the policy is designed to ensure:

- An emphasis on prevention of the potential for abuse by ensuring *tight governance around recruitment of teachers (and where appropriate volunteers)*
- The creation and maintenance of *an environment inimical to all forms of abuse* through its shared values, culture and systematic interventions to prevent the conditions for abuse
- That where abuse is suspected it will be swiftly and effectively *reported*
- That when suspected abuse is reported it will be swiftly and effectively *addressed*

4. Designated Members of Staff for Safeguarding (DMS)

The Company has two designated “Safeguarding Leads” (Safeguarding Lead and Deputy Safeguarding Lead) who take primary responsibility for:

- being a first point of contact for any child protection related concerns
- sharing information with the staff team
- organising staff induction and training for safeguarding
- accessing information and liaising with outside agencies to make sure information is up to date
- collating information when there are concerns about a child contacting the appropriate professionals to make a referral or to seek further advice.

The Safeguarding Lead and Deputy Safeguarding Lead will be appropriately trained, and update/refresh training and knowledge every two years.

5. Awareness and understanding of this policy

Parents of children in contact with the company will be advised of this policy and access to a copy will be readily available. This is ensured by having an e-copy available on the internet and a paper copy available on the Company notice board in the Hereford CIC Studio.

Partner organisations contracting sessions “off-site” of the studio are oriented to the e-copy and provided with a paper copy if requested).

All Parents are advised that:

If we have a concern about a child we will share these concerns with parents/carers. However, if sharing these concerns puts the child at risk of significant or further harm we will seek advice from Herefordshire Council staff within the MASH team’

All Directors, Teachers, volunteers and others working on behalf of the company or under its auspices in any setting will be oriented on induction towards this policy and made aware of this policy as well as Herefordshire Safeguarding Children’s Board inter-agency Child Protection Procedures. This session will include addressing training on possible signs of abuse (including recording past or current

injuries on a body map), how to share information and concerns, the safeguarding procedures of the Company and how to make referrals.

Induction and training sessions will be refreshed every 3 years.

The Board will review this policy and have an annual safeguarding update. This review will be reflective and meaningful and all Directors reminded of the importance of Safeguarding and the compatibility of excellence in safeguarding practice with the wider mission and values of the Company.

6. Vetting and access to Children

Our primary responsibility is the welfare of all the children in our care. The Company therefore follows local child protection procedures developed by the Herefordshire Safeguarding Children Board (HSCB) and ensures that all adults working with, and looking after children have the skills and knowledge to put the procedures into practice.

All Directors, Teachers, volunteers and others working on behalf of the company or under its auspices in any setting where they may be left alone with children will be vetted **annually/every three years** via the Disbarring and Disclosure Service.

All Directors, Teachers, volunteers and others when working on behalf of the company or under its auspices will ensure that any adults not known to be vetted will not be left alone with children.

7. A Culture of Prevention at HYCIC

Iyengar Yoga is a practice associated with developing self-confidence, body awareness, internal security, boundaried relationships and self-assertion. Appropriate teaching of Iyengar yoga is therefore inherently protective of children. Accordingly Hereford Yoga CIC has clear aligned policies and procedures to ensure only appropriately qualified and accredited Iyengar teachers are employed by the Company.

Hereford Yoga CIC actively fosters an open and collaborative community of teachers and discourages closed, exclusive, controlling

or otherwise unhealthy relationships to develop between teachers and students of any age.

Teacher meetings are held on at least an annual basis. Classes, where possible, are “covered” by other teachers on a regular basis; students are encouraged to attend teaching from other Iyengar practitioners within and outside of the Company; parents of children are encouraged to form relationships with the teachers and take an interest in the work of the Company and their children’s progress and wellbeing; parents are encouraged to discuss any concerns that may arise and will also be made aware of the safeguarding policy and complaints process.

8. Referring a child

Children, Parents, Teachers, Directors and Members of the Public can raise any concerns or potential referrals with either of the Safeguarding Leads or directly make a referral for safeguarding if they prefer to do so.

Referrals will be made using the most up to date form on the Herefordshire Safeguarding Board Website.

Referrals will contain:

- details of the concern/allegation
- name, address, and d.o.b.
- details of setting and who involved
- any other relevant information including ethnicity, specific vulnerability issues etc

9. Allegations “against a member of staff”

Where allegations are made against anyone working on behalf of or closely connected to the Company, The Safeguarding Lead and Deputy Safeguarding Lead will work together to manage the situation which would usually result in the immediate suspension of the member of staff from any direct contact with Children or Vulnerable Adults.

If the concern involves a Safeguarding Lead then the other lead could be contacted or advice sought from Herefordshire's Safeguarding provision using the contacts listed at the end of this policy.

Any upheld allegations will be dealt with according to Herefordshire Safeguarding Board procedures and the law, including notification of the DBS.

10. Prevent duty

Exposing or involving children in extremist beliefs and/or terrorism is in itself a form of abuse and is covered by this policy. Training associated with this policy will include an awareness of Prevent Duties and the need for specific and timely referral to police when warranted.

11. Whistleblowing

Anyone connected to the centre who has ANY CONCERNS ABOUT MISCONDUCT of teachers, Directors, volunteers or any other person connected to the Company is encouraged to raise them with the Safeguarding Leads or any Director of the company. These concerns do not need to be directly related to safeguarding issues. Concerns so raised will be dealt with in line with Public Interest Disclosure Act 1998.

12. Records, Reporting and Monitoring of Safety

Routine records of children will record statutory information required, namely d.o.b, name, address, gender, parents (or designated adults with parental responsibility). This information will be reviewed annually.

Any reports of concerns, disclosures or allegations will be recorded and kept securely in a locked filing cabinet with access limited to the Safeguarding Leads.

To support monitoring, any accidents or incidents involving children are highlighted and considered in the context of safeguarding guidance (NB All accidents and incidents are reported to the Board).

Teachers and Directors will be reminded of the importance of listening carefully to any allegations raised by children, of taking them seriously, and of not asking any leading questions as this can jeopardise criminal investigation.

13. Confidentiality

Safeguarding raises issues of confidentiality which must be clearly understood by all concerned. Staff, volunteers and Directors have a responsibility to share relevant information about the protection of children with others particularly investigative agencies and social services.

If a child, parent or other adult confides in a member of staff and requests that the information is kept secret, it is important that the member of staff tells the adult sensitively that he or she has a responsibility to refer cases of alleged abuse to the appropriate agencies. 11.6 Within that context, the adult must, however, be assured that the matter will be disclosed only to people who need to know about it.

Where possible, consent must be obtained before sharing personal information with third parties. In some circumstances obtaining consent may be neither possible nor desirable as the safety and welfare of the child is the priority.

Where a disclosure has been made, staff must let the adult know the position regarding their role and what action they will have to take as a result.

Clear boundaries of confidentiality will be communicated to all and their wishes and feelings of children taken into account as far as possible within the wider framework of safeguarding legislation and processes.

14. Use of mobile phones/cameras

The use of cameras is not permitted in Hereford Yoga Studio or Hereford Yoga CIC classes and workshops without express consent.

Camera use is banned in changing areas and toilets .

Content on the camera is deleted after printing and copying.

Safeguarding training will include reference to making and copying unauthorised images on mobile phones, being aware of other persons potential misuse of mobile phones the need to avoid self-compromise as well as protect children.

15. Monitoring and review of policy

The policy will be reviewed annually with an in-depth review every three years, or in the following circumstances:

changes in legislation and/or government guidance as required by the Local Safeguarding Children Board, UK Sport and/or Home Country Sports Councils and the Iyengar Yoga Association, UK or as a result of any other significant change or event.

Last reviewed January 2015

Appendix:

1. Routine and Emergency Contact telephone numbers

Safeguarding Lead
Damian Gardner 07722 643160

Deputy Safeguarding Lead (and Managing Director)
Jenny-May While 07773281883

For anyone not sure whether to refer a child advice can also be sought from the MASH 01432 260800
www.herefordshire.gov.uk/MASH

Anyone wishing to make a referral outside of office hours should contact the Emergency Duty Team on 01905 768020. If it is an emergency you may need to contact the Police as well.

Urgent Child Protection referral can also be made via
0300 123 4043

2. Select key guidance documents

What to do if you're worried a child is being abused

[https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/419604/What to do if you re worried a child is being abused.pdf](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/419604/What_to_do_if_you_re_worried_a_child_is_being_abused.pdf)

Hereford Childrens Services Child Protection Referral Form

<https://www.hertfordshire.gov.uk/media-library/documents/childrens-services/hscb/child-protection-referral-form.pdf>

Safeguarding Policy Guidance

[file:///Users/damiangardner/Downloads/safeguarding_policy_guidance_updated_march_2016%20\(3\).pdf](file:///Users/damiangardner/Downloads/safeguarding_policy_guidance_updated_march_2016%20(3).pdf)