



Safeguarding Policy for KH Swim - The Mer Academy

Introduction:

At KH Swim - The Mer Academy, the safety and well-being of our young swimmers are our top priorities. We are committed to providing a safe, inclusive, and nurturing environment for babies and toddlers to learn and enjoy swimming. Our safeguarding policy outlines our approach to protecting children from harm and promoting their welfare during swim lessons.

Key Principles:

1. **Child-Led Approach:** We place the welfare and best interests of the child at the forefront of all our activities and decision-making processes.
2. **Preventative Measures:** We aim to prevent harm and safeguard children through proactive measures, risk assessments, and staff training.
3. **Open Communication:** We encourage open communication with parents, caregivers, and staff to address any safeguarding concerns promptly and effectively.
4. **Professional Conduct:** All staff members undergo appropriate training, background checks, and adhere to professional standards to ensure a safe and respectful environment for children.

Key Safeguarding Procedures:

1. **Staff Training:** All staff members receive safeguarding training to recognize signs of abuse, understand reporting procedures, and uphold child protection policies.
 2. **Safety Checks:** Our premises undergo regular safety inspections, including pool safety assessments, to ensure a secure environment for children.
 3. **Supervision:** Children are supervised at all times during swim lessons by qualified instructors and assistants to maintain a safe and supportive setting.
 4. **Arrival and Departure:** Parents are required to escort their child to and from the pool area, arriving 10 minutes early for sessions to ensure a smooth transition and safeguard children during transfer.
 5. **Reporting Procedures:** Any safeguarding concerns, suspicions of abuse, or incidents are reported to the designated safeguarding lead and relevant authorities in accordance with UK child protection laws
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6. Confidentiality: Information regarding safeguarding concerns is handled confidentially and shared on a need-to-know basis to protect the privacy and dignity of all individuals involved.

Communication and Support:

- Parents and caregivers are encouraged to communicate any safeguarding concerns or questions with our designated safeguarding lead.
- We provide information and resources on child protection, safety measures, and reporting procedures to educate and empower our community in safeguarding children.

Review and Monitoring:

Our safeguarding policy is regularly reviewed, updated, and communicated to staff, parents, and relevant stakeholders to ensure compliance and effectiveness in safeguarding children.

Contact Information:

- Designated Safeguarding Lead: Katie Hutchinson
- Emergency Contact: 07943079407
- Local Safeguarding Authority: Local Council