

# Jumping Beans Safeguarding & Child Protection Policy

## **Our commitment**

Jumping Beans is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of every child who attends our activities.

The welfare of the child is paramount. Every child has the right to participate in gymnastics and physical activity in a safe, positive environment and to be protected from abuse, neglect, exploitation and inappropriate behaviour.

Safeguarding is everyone's responsibility. All coaches, employees and volunteers working with Jumping Beans are expected to understand their safeguarding responsibilities and act upon concerns about a child's welfare.

## **Designated Safeguarding Lead**

The Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL) for Jumping Beans is:

Emily Brenchley – Owner, Jumping Beans

[emily@jumpingbeansyeovil.co.uk](mailto:emily@jumpingbeansyeovil.co.uk)

All safeguarding concerns arising within Jumping Beans should be reported to the DSL as soon as possible.

The DSL is responsible for ensuring concerns are appropriately recorded and determining what further safeguarding action or referral is required.

A concern should never be left unreported because the DSL is unavailable. Where there is an immediate risk to a child, appropriate statutory services must be contacted directly.

## **Responsibilities of staff and coaches**

Anyone working on behalf of Jumping Beans must:

- Treat children with dignity and respect.
- Maintain appropriate professional boundaries.
- Remain alert to signs that a child may be experiencing harm, abuse or neglect.
- Report safeguarding concerns promptly.
- Follow the Jumping Beans safeguarding procedures.
- Never investigate allegations themselves.
- Never promise a child that information will be kept secret.

- Complete safeguarding training appropriate to their role.
- Comply with Jumping Beans safer recruitment and DBS requirements.
- Follow Jumping Beans policies relating to conduct, photography, communication and physical contact.

### **Recognising safeguarding concerns**

Concerns may arise from:

- Something a child says or discloses.
- An unexplained injury or concerning pattern of injuries.
- A significant change in a child's behaviour, appearance or emotional wellbeing.
- Behaviour observed between a child and another person.
- Inappropriate behaviour by a coach, member of staff, volunteer, parent/carer or another child.
- Information provided by another parent, professional or organisation.
- Concerns arising outside Jumping Beans which may affect the child's welfare.

Concerns may relate to physical abuse, emotional abuse, sexual abuse, neglect or other forms of harm or exploitation.

Staff and coaches are not responsible for deciding whether abuse has occurred. Their responsibility is to recognise concerns, respond appropriately and report them.

If a child makes a disclosure

If a child tells you something that suggests they or another child may have been harmed:

Stay calm and listen.

Allow the child to speak in their own words and at their own pace.

Take them seriously.

Reassure the child that they have done the right thing by telling you.

Do not promise confidentiality.

Explain in an age-appropriate way that you may need to tell someone whose job it is to help keep them safe.

Do not investigate.

Do not ask leading questions, attempt to establish whether the allegation is true or confront the person the allegation concerns.

Only ask questions where genuinely necessary to clarify what the child is communicating.

Explain what happens next.

Tell the child that you will speak to the appropriate person who can help.

Make a written record as soon as possible.

**Record:**

- **The child's name.**
- **Date and time of the disclosure.**
- **Where it occurred.**
- **What the child said, using their own words wherever possible.**
- **Any questions you asked.**
- **Anything you personally observed.**
- **Names of other people mentioned or present.**
- **Your name, signature and the date the record was made.**

Clearly distinguish between facts, observations and information reported by somebody else.

Report the concern immediately to the Jumping Beans DSL.

Responding to an immediate risk

If a child is in immediate danger or requires urgent medical assistance, call 999.

The safety of the child takes priority over internal reporting procedures.

The Jumping Beans DSL should be informed as soon as reasonably possible afterwards.

**Reporting concerns**

Safeguarding concerns should normally be reported immediately to the Jumping Beans DSL.

The DSL will consider the information and determine what action is necessary,

including seeking safeguarding advice or making a referral to Children's Social Care or the police.

If the DSL is unavailable and delaying action could place a child at risk, the person with the concern should contact the appropriate safeguarding service directly.

**For Jumping Beans activities in Somerset:**

**Somerset Children's Social Care: 0300 123 2224**

**Emergency Duty Team (outside office hours): 0300 123 2327**

**Police: 999 in an emergency or 101 for non-emergency concerns.**

**Concerns about someone working with children**

Any concern or allegation about the behaviour of a Jumping Beans coach, employee, volunteer or another person working with children must be taken seriously and reported immediately to the DSL.

The person receiving the allegation must not investigate it themselves or confront the person concerned.

Where an allegation concerns the DSL/owner, or where reporting the matter internally would be inappropriate, the concern should be reported directly to the appropriate safeguarding authority.

Where appropriate, allegations concerning someone who works with children will be referred through the Somerset Local Authority Designated Officer (LADO) process.

**Parents and carers**

Jumping Beans aims to work openly and positively with parents and carers.

Parents will normally be informed where there is a safeguarding concern about their child. However, information should not be shared with a parent/carers where doing so could place the child or another person at greater risk, prejudice an investigation or where professional safeguarding advice indicates that it would not be appropriate.

**Confidentiality and information sharing**

Safeguarding information will be handled sensitively and shared only where

there is a legitimate safeguarding reason to do so.

The safety and welfare of the child takes priority when determining whether safeguarding information needs to be shared.

Safeguarding records will be kept securely and separately from general attendance or administrative records, with access limited to appropriate individuals.

### **Safer recruitment**

Jumping Beans is committed to safer recruitment.

Appropriate checks will be undertaken for people working with children, which may include:

- Application and interview processes.
- Identity checks.
- References.
- Verification of relevant qualifications.
- Appropriate Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) checks.
- Safeguarding training.
- Induction into Jumping Beans safeguarding policies and procedures.

No individual will be permitted to undertake responsibilities beyond the level for which they have been appropriately recruited, trained and authorised.

### **Physical contact**

Gymnastics may require appropriate physical contact between a coach and child for instruction, support or safety.

#### **Physical contact must:**

- Be necessary and appropriate for the activity.
- Be in the interests of the child.
- Be appropriate to the child's age and development.
- Take place openly and appropriately.
- Never be unnecessary, secretive or inappropriate.

Where parents/carers physically support children during parent-and-child sessions, they should do so in accordance with the coach's instructions.

### **Photography, video and communication**

Photographs and video of children must only be taken, stored or used in accordance with Jumping Beans' photography and consent arrangements.

Coaches and staff must not use personal communication with children outside appropriate Jumping Beans arrangements.

### **Training**

Coaches, employees and relevant volunteers will receive safeguarding information and training appropriate to their role.

The Designated Safeguarding Lead should undertake appropriate safeguarding-lead training and maintain current safeguarding knowledge.

### **Review**

This policy will be reviewed annually and sooner where required following:

- A safeguarding incident or concern.
- A significant change in Jumping Beans' activities or staffing.
- Changes to relevant legislation or statutory guidance.
- Changes to local safeguarding procedures.

Designated Safeguarding Lead: Emily Brenchley

Policy owner: Jumping Beans

Last reviewed: September 2026

Next review: September 2027