

Safeguarding Policy

Safeguarding, Abandoned child, separated parents

Saltire is fully committed to safeguarding the welfare of all children and young people in its care. It recognises the responsibility to promote safe practice and to protect children from harm, abuse and exploitation. It follows Scottish Gymnastics guidelines and the Safeguarding Officer is available at any time to discuss any issues related to Safeguarding and Child Protection (See Safeguarding Officer Contact Details on the next page).

Members and volunteers will work together to embrace difference and diversity and respect the rights of children and young people.

This document outlines the Club's commitment to protecting children and vulnerable adults.

These guidelines are based on the following principles:

- The welfare of children is the primary concern
- All children, whatever their age, culture, disability, gender, language, racial origin, socio-economic status, religious belief and/or sexual identity have the right to protection from all forms of harm and abuse
- Child Protection is everyone's responsibility
- Children have the right to express views of all matters which affect them, should they wish to do so

Organisations shall work in partnership together with children and parents to promote the welfare health and development of children

Saltire Team Gymnastics:

- Promote the health and welfare of children by providing opportunities for them to take part in sport safely.
- Respect and promote the rights, wishes and feelings of children.
- Promote and implement appropriate procedures to safeguard the well-being of children and young people and protect them from abuse.
- Train, support and supervise its members and volunteers to adopt best practice to safeguard and protect children and young people from abuse and to reduce risk to themselves.
- Require members and volunteers to adopt and abide by this Safeguarding Policy and these procedures.
- Respond to any allegations of misconduct or abuse of children in line with this Policy and these procedures as well as implementing, where appropriate, the relevant disciplinary and appeals procedures.
- Observe guidelines issued by local Safeguarding Committees for the protection of children and young people.
- Regularly monitor and evaluate the implementation of this Policy and these procedures.

This policy and these procedures will be regularly reviewed:

- In accordance with changes in legislation and guidance on the protection of children or following any changes within the Club.
- Following any issues or concerns raised about the protection of children within the Club.
- In all other circumstances, at least every three years

Abandoned Child (Child not picked up)

Definition of an Abandoned Child

A child is considered abandoned if:

- They have not been picked up within 20 minutes after their scheduled class ends
- No contact has been made with a parent/guardian or emergency contact
- Coaches have made reasonable efforts to contact all listed guardians/emergency contacts.

2. Procedure for Late Pick-Up

- First 10 minutes: Coaches will supervise the child in a safe, supervised area.
- After 10 minutes: Coaches will begin calling the parent/guardian and all emergency contacts provided.
- After 20 minutes: If no authorized adult can be reached, coaches will notify the Club Managers, Safeguarding officer and escalate the situation by calling 999 to alert of abandoned child

Child Pick-Up Policy for Separated or Divorced Parents

Purpose

To ensure the safety of all children at Saltire and to respect legal custody arrangements in place between separated or divorced parents/guardians

1. Custody Documentation

- Parents/guardians are required to submit current legal documentation regarding custody, visitation, and pick-up rights (e.g., custody agreements, restraining orders).
- All documents will be handled confidentially and used solely to guide pick-up procedures.

2. Restricted Access

- If one parent is not allowed to pick up the child due to a legal restriction (e.g., court order, restraining order), a copy of the document must be provided to the gym.
- Without legal documentation, both parents will be treated as having equal pick-up rights.

3. Handling Disputes

- Coaches are not responsible for enforcing custody agreements or mediating disputes between parents.
- In the event of a disagreement or unauthorized pick-up attempt, coaches will:
 - Keep the child safely at the facility.
 - Contact the custodial parent/guardian listed on file.
 - Contact law enforcement if necessary to ensure the child's safety.

Safeguarding Contact Details

Safeguarding Officers: Natalie Graham & Lynn Paton

Email: saltiresafeguarding@hotmail.com