



Bearsden Martial Arts Club

Child Protection

1. Summary Statement

Bearsden Martial Arts Club is committed to practice which protects children from harm. Protecting children from abuse is a responsibility of all those who come into contact with them.

It is fully committed to safeguarding the well-being of its members. Every individual in the club should, at all times, show respect and understanding for their rights, safety and welfare, and conduct themselves in a way that reflects the principles of the organisation and the guidelines contained in the Code of Ethics and Good Practice for Children's Sport.

This statement is also written into the Constitution of the club.

Copies of both documents can be accessed via our website on:

www.bearsdenmartialarts.org

Signature of Chief Instructor

1.6.16

Date

2. Policy Statement

Bearsden Martial Arts Club is committed to ensuring that the safety, welfare and well-being of children are maintained at all times during their participation in activities run by Bearsden Martial Arts Club.

Bearsden Martial Arts Club aims to promote a safe environment for all children and to assist all coaches and members to recognise child abuse and neglect and follow the appropriate notification procedures when reporting alleged abuse.

3. Rationale

The focus of the policy and guidelines is the prevention of child abuse and poor practice in the sporting environment.

This policy and guidelines will assist Bearsden Martial Arts Club in establishing a strategy for dealing with the problem of child abuse and neglect in a responsible, effective and consistent manner.

Information contained in this document will help to create an understanding and direction for coaches, members, parents, children and young people involved in mixed martial arts.

4. Objectives

Through the development of this policy Bearsden Martial Arts Club objectives are to:

- Adopt child protection guidelines through a code of conduct for all coaches and members
- Provide information to assist them to recognise and respond to all forms of child abuse
- Provide direction to them regarding their legal responsibilities under child protection legislation
- Follow procedures for the recruitment of coaches and members who may assist in coaching juniors at any time.

5. Scope of Policy

The Child Protection Policy of Bearsden Martial Arts Club is applicable to all coaches and members of Bearsden Martial Arts Club.

6. Legislation

In order to implement the child protection policy Bearsden Martial Arts Club will undertake to:

- Implement procedures that focus on the best interests of children and meet the requirements of child protection legislation
- Promote a safe and supportive environment for all children and young people participating in our activities
- Increase awareness and emphasise the importance of child protection issues in a sporting environment to all those involved with the activities of Bearsden Martial Arts Club. This includes coaches, members, parents and their children
- Ensure that all coaches and members of Bearsden Martial Arts Club are aware of their responsibilities arising.

NB The relevant legislation is the Children (Scotland) Act 1995

Other useful links are as below:

National Guidance on Child Protection Scotland 2014:

<http://www.gov.scot/Resource/0045/00450733.pdf>

Scottish Government Updates on Child Protection:

<http://www.gov.scot/Topics/People/Young-People/protecting/child-protection>

Child Protection Scotland:

<http://withscotland.org/public>

NSPCC

<https://www.nspcc.org.uk/what-you-can-do/get-advice-and-support/>

7. Expectations

Bearsden Martial Arts Club expects that all coaches and members who participate in organised sport under the banner of this Club will commit to the above.

8. Review

Bearsden Martial Arts Club Child Protection and Intervention Policy and Guidelines will be reviewed annually and updated in line with any legislative changes that have significant impact on the manner in which child protection and intervention issues are to be dealt with.

Signature of Head of Organisation

Date

Procedures

1. Recruitment

All of our instructors/coaches have been graded by the parent organisation (Shoto Budo).

They are insured by the Martial Arts Commission and have extensive coaching experience.

All coaches are in receipt of PVG (Protection of Vulnerable Groups) checks – equivalent of the old Enhanced Disclosure check.

The instructors receive no payment and their assistance is appreciated.

2. Training

All of our instructors/coaches have received basic training in child protection as below.

Every instructor/coach:

- Is made aware of the Club's commitment to safeguarding the well-being of its members.
- Understands that they are expected to show respect and understanding for the rights, safety and welfare of children at all times and conduct themselves in a way that reflects the principles of the organisation.
- Understands that they have a duty of care to the members of the Club.
- Is aware of their responsibility to record any concern.
- Is aware of their responsibility to report any concern to the Club Secretary.
- Is aware that their responsibility is to report and not to investigate any concern.
- Receives a copy of the Club's Code of Conduct on their acceptance of the position of instructor (see page 6).
- Receives a copy of this document on their acceptance of the position of instructor.

3. Complaints

The club has in place a complaints, disciplinary and appeals procedure.

Any complaint should be raised with the Club Secretary. (Jackie Russell, email bearsdenmartialarts@hotmail.com or tel 0141 570 1345.

The Designated Person to act as liaison with the Statutory Authorities in relation to the reporting of allegations or suspicions of child abuse is the Club Secretary. (Jackie Russell, email bearsdenmartialarts@hotmail.com or tel 0141 570 1345.

Any coach who is the subject of an allegation, which has been reported to the Statutory Authorities, will be suspended while the matter is being examined. S/he should be invited to resume full duties when and if appropriate internal disciplinary procedures are completed.

Code of Conduct for instructors and members

The Bearsden Martial Arts Club expects all instructors/coaches and members to be aware of this Code of Conduct and adhere to its principles in their approach to all children and young people.

Best practice includes valuing and respecting children as individuals, in line with the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child and the Scottish Government's *Children's Charter*.

NB

"junior members" and "children/young people" refer to those Club members aged up to and including age 16

"member" refers to those Club members aged over 16

"Instructor/coach" refers to any Club member in a position of instructing/coaching whether or not this is on a regular basis.

These examples of best practice have been written to help protect both junior members and instructors: they take into consideration that both parties can be vulnerable at any time within a small group teaching situation.

1. It is important not to have any inappropriate physical contact with children/young people and this must be avoided. Inappropriate physical contact could be defined as unnecessary contact, or contact which could be seen to encroach on an individual's space in a way that could make them feel uncomfortable. Where physical contact/assistance is appropriate (for example, to demonstrate a move, or to grapple) it is important to always explain to the individual what is going to happen, to ensure that actions cannot be misinterpreted and to make sure that others in the vicinity are clear as to the actions that are going to take place.
2. It is against the policy of the Club for an instructor to travel with children/young people alone in a car, no matter how short the journey. Another instructor member should always be present, unless the specific issue has been discussed and consent has been obtained from the parent/ legal guardian.
3. Do not make suggestive or inappropriate remarks to or about a child or young person, even in fun, as this could be misinterpreted.
4. When children/young people are changing clothes, if the presence of an adult is necessary, there must be a minimum of two adults in the room at all times.
5. The consent of parents/legal guardians must be sought prior to the taking of any images (photographs or filming) and this consent should cover both the taking/recording of images and any subsequent publication of them either in printed (marketing materials, reports etc.) or electronic (websites, e-newsletters, presentations) format.

6. Any instructor who is aware that a child or young person may have become inappropriately attracted to another instructor (including themselves) should report this to the Club Secretary who will be able to provide advice, support and guidance and also monitor or take action as required
7. Similarly any instructor who is aware that another instructor (including themselves) may have become inappropriately attracted to a child or young person, must bring this to the attention of the Club Secretary who will be able to provide advice, support and guidance and also monitor or take action as required.
8. Never give out the personal details of anyone, especially those of a child or young person. Similarly, members should not share their own personal details with junior club members. The Clubs FaceBook page or website/email is used by the Club to disseminate any necessary information/updaters.
9. If you use social networking sites (e.g. Facebook, twitter) do not "friend" junior members.