



## Brackley Gymnastics School

# Child Protection Policy

Version	Date	Authorised by	Changes made
V1.0	01/03/2025	Natalie Baker - Founder	Launch
V1.1	16/03/2026	Natalie Baker – Club Director	Separated and retitled from the former “BGS Safeguarding Child and Protection Policy (Version 1.0 – March 2025)” to create a dedicated Child Protection Policy focused solely on children under 18.

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### Policy Relationship Statement

This policy forms part of the safeguarding and operational framework used by Brackley Gymnastics School.

These policies apply to members, parents, carers, visitors, and other participants involved in Brackley Gymnastics School activities. Where relevant, the policies listed below should be read together to support safeguarding, welfare, and the safe and respectful operation of the club.

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### Linked Documents

Brackley Gymnastics School – Gymnasts’ Code of Conduct  
Brackley Gymnastics School – Photography & Filming Policy  
Brackley Gymnastics School – Whistleblowing Policy  
Brackley Gymnastics School – Complaints Policy (Members & Visitors)  
Brackley Gymnastics School – Anti-Bullying & Harassment Policy  
Brackley Gymnastics School – Parents, Carers & Guests Code of Conduct  
Brackley Gymnastics School – Safeguarding Adults at Risk Policy  
Brackley Gymnastics School – Safer Recruitment Policy  
Brackley Gymnastics School – Equality, Diversity & Inclusion Policy  
Brackley Gymnastics School – Privacy Notice & Data Protection Statement  
Brackley Gymnastics School – Terms & Conditions

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### 2. Our Commitment

At Brackley Gymnastics School, the safety and well-being of every child is our highest priority. Every child has the right to feel safe, respected, and supported while enjoying gymnastics. We are committed to safeguarding children in line with the requirements of our governing body and national safeguarding guidance.

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### 3. Who This Policy Applies To

- All coaches, staff, and volunteers.
- All parents, carers, and visitors.

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## Brackley Gymnastics School

### Child Protection Policy

- All gymnasts under the age of 18.
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#### 4. What We Do

- Ensure all staff and volunteers receive safeguarding and child protection training.
  - Make sure children are listened to and can speak up about worries.
  - Provide a safe, respectful, and inclusive environment for all gymnasts, where safe to do so.
  - Follow safeguarding standards set out by our governing body.
  - Handle all safeguarding matters with confidentiality, sensitivity, and care.
  - Ensure children are dismissed safely at the end of sessions.
  - Children walking home independently must have formal written consent sent to [brackleygymnastics@gmail.com](mailto:brackleygymnastics@gmail.com).
  - Any third-party collection (e.g. friend, relative, or childminder) must be listed on the gymnast's membership form, and the collector must present formal identification and know the collection password on arrival.
  - These steps are in place to protect children and ensure their safe transfer of care at the end of sessions.
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#### 5. Use of Shared Facilities

Brackley Gymnastics School (BGS) operates within shared community facilities used by other organisations and members of the public.

During BGS sessions, safeguarding supervision applies to the main gymnastics hall and the single toilet facility located internally within the hall, which is available for gymnasts to use independently during activities.

The venue also contains additional toilet facilities (including male, female, and accessible toilets) located outside the hall and accessed via a hallway. These facilities form part of the shared building and remain outside the operational control of BGS.

Responsibility for safeguarding children when using these external toilet facilities rests with the child's parent or carer.

BGS staff do not accompany gymnasts into toilet facilities and cannot supervise toilets located outside the training hall. Gymnasts attending sessions independently should therefore use the internal hall toilet, where safeguarding oversight can be maintained within the training environment.

Staff remain attentive to movement in and out of the hall and will take appropriate action if safeguarding concerns arise.

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## Brackley Gymnastics School

### Child Protection Policy

#### 6. Movement Within the Venue

During sessions, gymnasts are expected to remain within the designated training area of the gymnastics hall unless instructed otherwise by a coach.

Due to safeguarding responsibilities for all participants, BGS staff must remain within the training environment to supervise the group and cannot leave the session area to follow or search for gymnasts who leave the hall or wider venue.

Gymnasts are not permitted to leave the premises during sessions unless they are collected by their parent or carer. Written parental consent must be provided in advance for any gymnast permitted to walk home independently at the end of a session.

If a gymnast leaves the training area or wider venue without permission, staff will continue supervising the remaining group and will notify the child's parent or carer immediately.

Parents and carers remain responsible for safeguarding their children outside the designated BGS activity space and beyond the scheduled session time.

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#### 7. Reporting Concerns

If you ever have a concern about a child's safety:

- Speak to our Welfare Officer in confidence.
- If your child or you feel more comfortable, you may also approach any trusted member of staff or coach, who will pass the concern directly to the Welfare Officer.
- If urgent, call 999.
- For non-emergency safeguarding concerns:
  - Police non-emergency: 101
  - West Northamptonshire Council Safeguarding: 0300 126 7000
  - NSPCC Helpline: 0808 800 5000

Contact details for the Welfare Officer are displayed on the club noticeboard and website.

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#### 8. How We Handle Concerns

- All concerns are taken seriously and followed up promptly.
- Information is shared only with those who need to know, to protect the child's welfare.
- Confidentiality is respected at every stage, where safe to do so.
- Whistleblowing is supported: anyone raising a concern in good faith will be listened to and protected. Concerns can be raised anonymously if preferred, and confidentiality will always be



## Brackley Gymnastics School

### Child Protection Policy

respected. However, we encourage individuals to provide their identity where possible, as this allows the club to address concerns more efficiently and thoroughly.

- In some cases, external safeguarding agencies may be contacted to ensure children are protected.

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#### 9. Inclusion & Equality

Brackley Gymnastics School is committed to creating an inclusive and welcoming environment for all children, regardless of background, identity, or ability. We will make every effort to remove barriers and support participation, where safe to do so, ensuring that safeguarding and the welfare of children always remain the highest priority.

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#### 10. Conclusion

Brackley Gymnastics School is dedicated to ensuring that all children are safe, protected, and supported while taking part in our activities. Safeguarding is everyone's responsibility, and we expect all staff, parents, carers, and gymnasts to work together to uphold this policy.

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#### 11. Review

This policy will be reviewed at least annually, or sooner if required by changes in legislation, safeguarding guidance, governing-body standards, or Brackley Gymnastics School operational practice.