

The purpose of this Safeguarding & Child Protection Policy is to outline our commitment to protecting children. It provides a framework for our staff, volunteers and members to follow.

Enso Martial Arts is committed to creating a safe, positive and inclusive environment for all people participating in our activities. We recognise our responsibility to safeguard children from harm and to promote their well-being.

Our Principles

- The welfare of our students is paramount.
- All students, regardless of age, gender, ethnicity, religion, sexual orientation, disability or background, have the right to protection from harm.
- We will treat all students with respect and dignity.
- We will work in partnership with parents/carers, statutory agencies and other relevant organisations to safeguard children.
- We will ensure that our staff and volunteers are appropriately trained and understand their responsibilities in relation to child protection.

Policy Aims

- To provide a safe and supportive environment for all students participating in our martial arts activities.
- To raise awareness amongst staff, volunteers, members and parents/carers about child protection issues, including what constitutes abuse.
- To establish clear procedures for responding to concerns or allegations of abuse.
- To prevent abuse and neglect from occurring within our organisation.
- To ensure that all necessary steps are taken to protect children from harm.

Policy Statement

Enso Martial Arts believes that:

- Children have the right to enjoy their martial arts training in a safe and supportive environment.
- All adults working with children have a responsibility to safeguard them from harm.
- We will not tolerate any form of abuse or neglect.
- We will take all necessary steps to protect children and promote their welfare.

What is Abuse?

Abuse is the mistreatment of a person that causes harm. It can take many forms, and a person may experience more than one type of abuse at the same time. It's important to be aware of the different categories:

Physical Abuse: Involves intentionally inflicting physical harm on a person, such as hitting, slapping, kicking, shaking, burning, biting, or inappropriate restraint.

Emotional Abuse: Involves acts that damage a person's emotional well-being, such as constant criticism, belittling, threats, intimidation, isolation, or witnessing domestic violence.

Sexual Child Abuse: Involves any sexual act with a child, including touching, kissing, oral sex, penetration, exploitation, or encouraging a child to engage in sexual activity. It also includes the production and distribution of child sexual abuse material.

Child Neglect: Involves the persistent failure to meet a child's basic physical and emotional needs, such as providing adequate food, clothing, shelter, healthcare, education, or supervision. It can also include a lack of emotional warmth and responsiveness.

Recruitment and Training

All staff and volunteers working with children will undergo appropriate background checks (e.g. enhanced DBS checks where applicable) and will be required to provide references and ID.

All staff and volunteers will receive regular training on child protection and safeguarding, including recognising signs of abuse, reporting procedures, and best practices for working with children. This training will cover the different types of abuse listed above.

We will maintain records of staff and volunteer training.

Code of Conduct

All staff and volunteers working with children at Enso Martial Arts must adhere to the following Code of Conduct:

- Maintain a professional and respectful relationship with children at all times.
- Avoid spending excessive amounts of time alone with a child unless in a public area and within sight of others.
- Avoid physical contact with children except where it is necessary for teaching purposes (e.g. demonstrating techniques) and then only in a safe and appropriate manner. This should be explained clearly to students.
- Be aware of and follow the organisation's policies and procedures on child protection.
- Report any concerns or suspicions of abuse to the Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL) or the Deputy Designated Safeguarding Lead (DDSL).

- Not make promises to children that cannot be kept.
- Respect the privacy and confidentiality of children and their families.
- Not use inappropriate language or behaviour in front of children.
- Not discriminate against any child.

Photography Policy

Enso Martial Arts will endeavour to ensure that parents, carers, family members and others understand our photography policy.

In brief Enso Martial Arts will:

- use a parental permission form to obtain consent for a child to be photographed and videoed.
- obtain the child's permission to use their image.
- not use children's names in photograph captions. If a child is named, we will avoid using the photograph unless we have prior parental consent.
- only use images of children in suitable clothing to reduce the risk of inappropriate use.
- state written expectations of professional photographers or the press who are invited to an event to comply with child protection.
- not allow photographers unsupervised access to children.
- store securely any images or videos that we have of children. Any hard copies of images will be kept in a locked container and electronic images will be in an encrypted file with restricted access.
- not keep any images on unencrypted portable equipment such as laptops, memory sticks and mobile phones.

For further information, please refer to our separate Photography Policy document.

Reporting Procedures

Any concerns or allegations of abuse involving a child at Enso Martial Arts must be reported immediately to the Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL) or the Deputy Designated Safeguarding Lead (DDSL)

The DSL or DDSL will follow the appropriate reporting procedures, which may include contacting the local child protection services and/or the police.

All reports will be treated seriously and confidentially.

Enso Martial Arts will keep accurate records of all reported incidents and actions taken.

Responsibilities

The DSL and DDSL are responsible for:

- Implementing and monitoring this child protection policy.
- Providing advice and support to staff and volunteers on child protection issues.
- Receiving and investigating reports of abuse.
- Liaising with external agencies, such as social services and the police.
- Maintaining records of child protection concerns and incidents.

Confidentiality

We will maintain confidentiality in all matters relating to child protection and safeguarding. Information will only be shared on a need-to-know basis and in accordance with relevant legislation and guidance.

Contact Details

If you have any concerns at all about the safety and well-being of a child, please contact one of our safeguarding leads:

Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL)

Lee Woodward – lee@ensomartialarts.co.uk

0800 688 9963

Deputy Designated Safeguarding Lead (DDSL)

Nicky Woodward – nicky@ensomartialarts.co.uk

0800 688 9963

Or contact the Lancashire Safeguarding Children Board

www.lancshiresafeguarding.org.uk

Concerns about a child should be reported on 0300 123 6720 or out of hours 0300 123 6722 (8pm – 8am)

We are committed to reviewing our policy regularly.

This policy was last reviewed on: 25/02/2025

Signed: 

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