

Kanzenki Karate Club
East Grinstead

Child Safeguarding Statement

last updated: 22.2.2026 last reviewed: 22.2.2026

The Kanzenki Karate Club exists to promote fitness, self-control, and to instil confidence in its participants, for both children and adults, but recognises especially the importance of these attributes for children as they develop and grow. Our aim is to provide a safe environment where these aspects can be nourished - while also being fun and enjoyable.

With this in mind this document lays out the principles and guidelines which every adult involved at any level of the children's class must abide by and actively promote.

Basic principles

The welfare, safety and interests of children are paramount in all circumstances. We aim to provide a positive, developmental and enjoyable experience within a safe and encouraging environment.

All children, no matter their background or ability, will be treated with respect and listened to. Full attention must be given to their concerns, or the concerns of their parents, and clear answers and actions must be provided in response. Regular communication is kept with the children (in class) and parents (via correspondence) and they are informed that channels are always open should they have any questions or concerns, in confidence.

Every child is unique and their needs and personal boundaries must be recognised and respected. Kanzenki are informed, in confidence, of any relevant medical conditions of the student, and these must be taken into account during training.

There should always be at least two responsible adults in attendance for every children's class. Responsible adults are also expected to take up the offer of any relevant training offered by our governing organisation, the Shotokan Kenkyujo (SKK) or the Independent Martial Art Sports Association (IMASA).

Risks & guidelines

i. **injury** - children are told not to run or play around in the dojo (training hall) before or after training and the dojo is inspected and kept clear of any hazardous items; the importance of warm-ups and warm-downs is emphasised to reduce the risk of injury during training; no advanced dangerous techniques are taught to children or beginners; a first aid kit is always present, emergency phone numbers are held (eg. parents/guardians, hospitals) and an accident book is kept should the need arise (every accident will include a safety review to improve any measures to be taken); parents/guardians must always be informed if an injury has taken place, no matter how minor.

ii. **behaviour** - the moral aspect of karate is emphasised regularly and notice is taken to ensure an atmosphere of mutual respect and empathy is fostered among children, both those training and promoting the same attitude towards those outside the dojo; horseplay (running around, play-fighting, chasing, etc.) is not allowed in the dojo and the seriousness of learning a martial art is highlighted with good concentration encouraged; good behaviour in the dojo and towards others - from both children and adults - is a priority; any signs of bullying are to be reported and dealt with in a proper manner with the cooperation of parents/guardians; any signs of racism, homophobia, transphobia, xenophobia or prejudice in any form are not to be ignored and are to be dealt with, along with the cooperation of parents/guardians; if bad behaviour from a child is persistent and disruptive sanctions may be required - these should never involve any public humiliation or physical force and should be positive and age-appropriate, with the child's parent/guardian being contacted and involved as soon as possible, if required.

iii. **abuse** - responsible adults should be alert to any signs of abuse or a sudden shift in the mental health of a child and should engage with the relevant authorities if the concerns seem genuine; a child will not be left alone with a single adult (unless in an emergency); no child will be forced to take part in an activity or do something they do not wish to; martial arts sometimes involve physical contact - if this is necessary the student's agreement must be obtained first and they must be made clearly aware of the action that is to take place; any consensual physical interaction between adults and/or children will be respectful, non-violent, and safe; no physical interaction should take place between an adult and a child in private - only in the club/training setting alongside other students and adults; touching of any sensitive areas (eg. genital area, rear end, female chest) is expressly forbidden; sexual language, jokes or comments are forbidden in the dojo; all behaviour towards children and students should come from a place of respect, no adult should act to gain power, belittle, embarrass or humiliate a child.

iv. **privacy** - it is recognised that children and students have a right to privacy; while basic details (including any relevant medical details) are kept for each student they are kept in strict confidence and must be deleted within 6 months after a student has left the club; children may only be photographed with the express permission of themselves and their parent/guardian and must not be published online, including social media unless express permission is given; any worries or concerns a child raises with a responsible club adult must be dealt with in confidence and according to the individual child's wishes and with their best interests in mind.

v. **safety & welfare** - (not including areas already covered above); if a child needs the bathroom during class they must ask and notify a responsible adult first, and their return must be looked for and confirmed; collection of children at the end of training must be monitored to make sure an approved adult is in charge of their collection; all parents/guardians contact details must be available should there be a problem with collection; children should not be sent home with an unapproved adult (including club adults) without the express permission of the parent/guardian; all children should be counted out to make sure they have left safely; if any issue arises that is beyond the means of the Kanzenki Karate club to safely deal with and requires resolution, then the correct authorities or guidance must be sought in a timely manner - whether parent/guardian, school, venue administration, governing body (SKK, IMASA), medical services, social services or police. Children, parents, carers and instructors must not stray into other parts of the site not covered by our hall hire agreement - we have access to the car park, the short corridor to the gym hall (dojo), and the toilets along that corridor only; this enables us and the school to keep everyone safe.

vi. **communication** - all communication outside of the class (whether digital, phone, letter, etc.) will be with the parent/guardian only, there should be no personal direct communication with children, including via social media; any social media contact must only be through the official Kanzenki Karate account; if a child is old enough to have their own social media presence then contact can only be via the official Kanzenki Karate account, responding only to karate-related posts, and only if related to karate; private correspondence (eg. direct messaging) must only be with the parent/guardian, not children.

Contacts

West Sussex SCP - Safeguarding Children Partnership - www.westsussexscp.org.uk

Integrated Front Door (IFD) - if you are worried about a child: 01403 229900

email: WSChildrenServices@westsussex.gov.uk

Local Authority Designated officers (LADO) - Miriam Williams & Donna Tomlinson

email: LADO@westsussex.gov.uk tel. 0330 2226450

www.westsussexscp.org.uk/professionals/professional-disagreements-and-concerns/ladoinformation

ChildLine: 0800 1111

This policy statement will be reviewed and updated regularly.

Garen Ewing (Enhanced DBS)

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