

# Soho Swim Safeguarding Policy

## Preface

### Safeguarding Statement

At Soho Swim, the safety, welfare, and protection of all swimmers, staff, and spectators are our top priorities. We are committed to creating a safe, welcoming, and inclusive environment where children are respected, valued, and supported. Our policies align with guidance from Swim England, safeguarding laws, and best practices to ensure every individual has access to safe and enjoyable swimming lessons.

### Definition of Safeguarding

Soho Swim defines safeguarding as:

- Preventing individuals from maltreatment.
- Protecting individuals from impairment to their health or development.
- Ensuring consistent safe and effective care.
- Taking action to ensure the best outcomes for every individual.

Child protection is a critical part of safeguarding, addressing situations where a child is at risk of or suffering significant harm.

### Safeguarding Principles

- The safety and welfare of all children are paramount.
- All children, regardless of age, gender, race, culture, religion, language, or ability, have the right to equal protection, safeguarding, and opportunities.
- All team members share an equal responsibility to act on safeguarding concerns.
- Soho Swim promotes a safe, stimulating, and positive environment for children to develop vital swimming skills.

### Purpose of the Policy

This policy is intended to protect children who receive any service from us, including those who are children of adults who may receive services from us. Under this policy, the term "children" shall mean any person who is under 18 years of age.

Soho Swim believes that no child or young person should experience abuse or harm and is committed to their protection. This policy provides guidance and principles to volunteers and staff, guiding our approach to child protection and safeguarding.

## The Risks to Children

Children can be vulnerable to various forms of abuse and harm, including:

- Physical or emotional abuse
- Neglect
- Sexual abuse
- Grooming or exploitation
- Trafficking and modern slavery
- Domestic abuse
- Bullying
- Exposure to inappropriate content or behavior, such as violence or criminal behavior
- Self-harm
- Physical harm from activities without adequate supervision

Safeguarding children from harm is an essential responsibility for Soho Swim.

## Prevention and Protection

Soho Swim fosters an open and trusting environment, ensuring:

- Children feel secure and can communicate freely.
- Team members and parents feel confident in raising concerns.
- Staff are trained in safeguarding and child protection procedures.

### Safeguarding Responsibilities

- All staff receive safeguarding training and are reminded regularly of their duties.
- Safeguarding concerns are reported promptly to the Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL).
- Soho Swim adheres to Swim England's Wave Power policy and government safeguarding guidelines.
- Confidentiality is respected unless disclosure is necessary to protect a child.

## Changing Room Policy

To ensure privacy, safety, and compliance with safeguarding standards, the following policies apply:

### Access to Changing Rooms:

- Parents/guardians should not enter changing rooms unless their child requires assistance due to age or specific needs. As stipulated by Swim England, this is generally for children under the age of 7 or 8 years old.
- Parents/guardians providing assistance must use the changing room corresponding to their gender. For example:

- A mother assisting her son must use the female changing room.
- A father assisting his daughter must use the male changing room.

#### Divider Use:

Dividers in changing rooms must remain in place at all times to preserve privacy and safety.

#### Poolside Changing:

Changing on the poolside is strictly prohibited to safeguard privacy and maintain a respectful environment.

## Photography Policy

A strict no-photo policy is enforced. Photography is not permitted on premises, during activities, or at events.

## Recruitment and Staff Training

- All staff undergo a rigorous recruitment process, including enhanced DBS checks.
- Staff are trained in safeguarding and child protection at induction and receive regular updates.

## Role of the Designated Safeguarding Lead

The DSL:

- Oversees all safeguarding responsibilities and procedures.
- Acts as a point of contact for staff and external agencies.
- Maintains secure and confidential records of all safeguarding concerns.
- Ensures all staff understand and comply with safeguarding policies.

The overall responsibility for safeguarding is managed by Lev Titov. In the event of a safeguarding concern, Lev can be contacted at [lev@sohoswim.co.uk](mailto:lev@sohoswim.co.uk).

## Whistleblowing

Soho Swim encourages staff to report any unsafe practices, unacceptable behavior, or safeguarding concerns. Concerns should be directed to the DSL or, if necessary, the NSPCC Whistleblowing Helpline (0800 028 0285).

## Good Practices

- Staff avoid situations where they are alone with swimmers.
- Physical contact during lessons is appropriate, necessary, and explained clearly.
- Parents are responsible for assisting children in changing and toilet areas.
- Any incidents or injuries are reported to management immediately.

## Summary

Swimming is a vital life skill, and Soho Swim is dedicated to ensuring that every swimmer can enjoy learning in a safe, supportive, and inclusive environment. Safeguarding is a shared responsibility, and we rely on our team, parents, and community to uphold these principles to protect and nurture every individual who enters our swim school.

Date of Change: 14/04/2025

[Soho Swim](#)