Table of Contents

SAFEGUARDING POLICY 2

PURPOSE 2
DEFINITIONS 2
LEGAL FRAMEWORK 2
RESPONSIBILITIES 2
KEY PRINCIPLES 2
DESIGNATED SAFEGUARDING LEAD 3
SAFER RECRUITMENT 3
RESPONDING TO CONCERNS 3
TRAINING AND AWARENESS 3
CONFIDENTIALITY 3
REVIEW AND MONITORING 3

Safeguarding policy

The Wing Chun Collective is committed to providing a safe and inclusive environment for all participants, regardless of their gender, age, or ethnic background. This Safeguarding Policy outlines our commitment to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of all individuals involved in our school, including students, instructors, staff, and volunteers.

Purpose

The purpose of this policy is to:

1. Ensure the well-being and safety of all participants involved in The Wing Chun Collective.
2. Provide clear guidelines and procedures for preventing, identifying, and responding to safeguarding concerns.
3. Promote a culture of safeguarding and awareness within our martial arts community.

Definitions

1. Abuse: Any form of physical, emotional, or sexual harm or neglect.
2. Bullying: Unwanted, aggressive behaviour that involves a real or perceived power imbalance.
3. Safeguarding: Protecting children and adults from harm.
4. Whistleblowing: Raising concerns about a possible safeguarding issue.

Legal Framework

The Wing Chun Collective recognizes its legal and ethical responsibilities under the following legislation and guidelines:

1. Children Act 1989 and 2004 (England and Wales)
2. Children (Scotland) Act 1995
3. Children (Northern Ireland) Order 1995
4. Safeguarding Vulnerable Groups Act 2006
5. Protection of Freedoms Act 2012
6. Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) Code of Practice
7. The Care Act 2014 (England)

Responsibilities

1. All staff and volunteers at The Wing Chun Collective have a responsibility to safeguard the welfare of all participants.
2. Parents and carers have a responsibility to ensure that their children are safe and to report any concerns they have to The Wing Chun Collective.
3. Participants have a responsibility to respect the rights and safety of others.

Key Principles

1. Everyone has the right to participate in martial arts activities in a safe and supportive environment, free from harm, abuse, discrimination, or harassment.
2. The welfare and best interests of the participants are of paramount importance.
3. All suspicions, concerns, or allegations of abuse or harm will be taken seriously and responded to promptly and appropriately.
4. Safeguarding is everyone's responsibility. All staff, instructors, volunteers, and participants have a duty to report any concerns to the Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL).

Designated Safeguarding Lead

The Wing Chun Collective has appointed a Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL) who will oversee all safeguarding matters. The DSO's responsibilities include:

1. Promoting a culture of safeguarding within the martial arts school.
2. Ensuring compliance with all relevant legislation and guidelines.
3. Receiving and recording all safeguarding concerns.
4. Coordinating responses to safeguarding concerns, including making referrals to appropriate agencies.
5. Maintaining accurate and confidential safeguarding records.
6. Providing support and advice to staff, instructors, and volunteers regarding safeguarding issues.
7. Facilitating relevant safeguarding training and awareness programs.

Safer Recruitment

The Wing Chun Collective is committed to following safer recruitment practices, including:

1. Conducting appropriate checks, such as enhanced DBS checks, for all staff, instructors, and volunteers who work directly with children or vulnerable individuals.
2. Ensuring that recruitment processes include thorough interviews, reference checks, and verification of qualifications and certifications.
3. Providing relevant safeguarding training for all staff, instructors, and volunteers.

Responding to Concerns

1. All concerns, suspicions, or allegations of abuse or harm should be reported to the Designated Safeguarding Lead immediately.
2. The Designated Safeguarding Lead will maintain confidentiality while investigating any safeguarding concerns, ensuring information is shared only on a need-to-know basis.
3. Where appropriate, the Designated Safeguarding Lead will make referrals to relevant statutory authorities, such as local authorities, the police, or child protection agencies.
4. The Wing Chun Collective will cooperate fully with any statutory investigations or assessments relating to safeguarding concerns.
5. Support will be provided to any individuals involved in the reporting, investigation, or resolution of safeguarding concerns.

Training and Awareness

1. The Wing Chun Collective will provide regular safeguarding training and awareness programs for all staff, instructors, and volunteers.
2. Training will include recognizing signs of abuse, understanding reporting procedures, and promoting a safe and inclusive environment.
3. Safeguarding policies and procedures will be made available to all participants, parents/guardians, staff, instructors, and volunteers.

Confidentiality

All concerns raised under this policy will be treated confidentially. However, there may be occasions when it is necessary to share information with other agencies, such as the police or social services. This will only be done where there is a clear risk to the safety of a participant.

Review and Monitoring

1. This Safeguarding Policy will be reviewed annually, or as required, to ensure it remains up to date and in line with legal requirements.
2. The Wing Chun Collective will regularly monitor the implementation of this policy and the effectiveness of safeguarding measures, making improvements where necessary.