

Petherwick Jiu Jitsu – Child Protection Policy

1. Policy Statement

Petherwick Jiu Jitsu is fully committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of all children and young people who attend our club. We believe that it is the responsibility of every adult involved in our club to protect children from abuse, neglect, and exploitation and to ensure a safe, inclusive, and positive environment for their physical and emotional development.

Our policy applies to all coaches, volunteers, helpers, parents/guardians, and anyone working or involved in the delivery of activities to children under the age of 18.

2. Key Principles

- The welfare of the child is paramount.
 - All children, regardless of age, ability, gender, race, religion or belief, sexual orientation, or socioeconomic background, have the right to protection from harm.
 - All suspicions and allegations of abuse will be taken seriously and responded to swiftly and appropriately.
 - Staff and volunteers will be properly recruited, supported, and trained.
 - We work in partnership with children and parents/carers and with external agencies when needed.
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3. Definitions

- **Child:** A person under the age of 18.
 - **Abuse:** A form of maltreatment which includes physical abuse, emotional abuse, sexual abuse, and neglect.
 - **Safeguarding:** The process of protecting children from abuse, preventing harm to their health and development, and ensuring they grow up in safe circumstances.
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4. Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL)

Petherwick Jiu Jitsu has appointed a **Designated Safeguarding Lead** who is responsible for:

- Acting as the main contact for safeguarding concerns.
- Promoting awareness and understanding of safeguarding throughout the club.
- Reporting concerns to the appropriate local authority or police if necessary.

DSL Contact Details:

Name: Chris Petherwick

5. Safe Recruitment

We follow safe recruitment practices by:

- Requesting references for all coaches and volunteers.
 - Requiring all staff working with children to complete an enhanced DBS (Disclosure and Barring Service) check.
 - Conducting induction training on safeguarding policies and procedures.
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6. Code of Conduct for Coaches and Volunteers

All staff and volunteers must:

- Treat all children with respect and dignity.
 - Put the welfare of each child first.
 - Maintain appropriate physical boundaries at all times.
 - Never engage in or tolerate bullying, shouting, or abusive behaviour.
 - Report all concerns or allegations of abuse to the DSL immediately.
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7. Training and Awareness

All coaches and volunteers will receive safeguarding training appropriate to their role, and updates will be provided annually or when there are changes to relevant legislation or guidance.

8. Responding to Concerns or Allegations

If a child discloses abuse or if abuse is suspected:

1. **Listen carefully** and reassure the child.
2. **Do not promise confidentiality** – explain you must report it to help keep them safe.
3. **Record the facts** – what was said, observed, and the time/date.
4. **Report the concern immediately** to the DSL.

If the child is in immediate danger, contact **999**.

9. Whistleblowing

All members of the club are encouraged to report concerns about poor practice or potential abuse without fear of reprisal. The club will treat such concerns seriously and investigate them appropriately.

10. Photography and Social Media

- Parental/carers consent will be obtained for any photographs or videos of children used in club publicity or social media.
 - No names will be used without specific consent.
 - Parents/carers have the right to refuse photography of their child.
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11. Policy Review

This policy will be reviewed annually or in response to changes in legislation or safeguarding best practice. Feedback from children, parents, and staff will be considered in each review.

Date of Last Review: 06/2025

Next Review Due: 06/2026

Signed:

Chris Petherwick
Petherwick Jiu Jitsu
Date: 28/06/2025