



## **Child Protection Policy for Burns Skills School**

Burns Skills School is committed to providing a safe and supportive environment for all children. We understand the importance of child protection and the responsibility we have to ensure that children in our care are protected from harm, abuse, or neglect. This Child Protection Policy outlines our commitment to safeguarding children and the steps we take to ensure their well-being.

### **1. Commitment to Child Protection**

Burns Skills School is fully committed to ensuring the safety and welfare of all children participating in our coaching programs. We believe that all children have the right to be protected from harm and to feel safe while engaging in activities with us. We will take all reasonable steps to prevent and respond to any form of abuse, neglect, or exploitation.

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### **2. Our Responsibility**

As a coaching organisation, we recognise that we have a duty of care to:

- Provide a safe environment for children to learn and develop.
- Treat all children with respect, dignity, and care.
- Take all reasonable steps to protect children from any form of harm, including physical, emotional, and sexual abuse.

- Promote an environment in which children feel empowered to voice any concerns and know that they will be heard.
  - Work collaboratively with parents, guardians, and relevant authorities to ensure child protection.
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### 3. Definition of Abuse

We define abuse as any action or failure to act that results in harm, mistreatment, or neglect of a child. Types of abuse may include:

- **Physical Abuse:** Causing harm to a child through physical force or violence (e.g., hitting, shaking, or injuring a child).
  - **Emotional or Psychological Abuse:** Causing harm to a child through verbal or emotional manipulation, including belittling, rejection, or bullying.
  - **Sexual Abuse:** Any form of sexual activity or inappropriate contact with a child.
  - **Neglect:** The failure to provide for a child's basic needs, including food, clothing, shelter, medical care, and emotional support.
  - **Online Abuse:** Engaging in inappropriate or harmful online behavior towards children, including cyberbullying or exploitation.
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### 4. Staff and Volunteer Screening

Burns Skills School will ensure that all staff members and volunteers undergo a thorough background check and appropriate screening process before they are involved in working with children. This includes:

- Criminal background checks.
- Safeguarding and child protection training.
- Ensuring that staff understand their responsibilities and the appropriate actions to take if they suspect or witness any form of abuse

## **5. Reporting Concerns**

All staff and volunteers at Burns Skills School are required to report any concerns regarding a child's welfare, safety, or behavior to the designated Child Protection Officer (CPO). If there are concerns that a child is at risk of harm or has been harmed, staff must:

- Report concerns immediately to the CPO.
- Document any observations or incidents that raise concerns, including dates, times, and details of the event.
- The CPO will take appropriate action, which may include informing the child's parent or guardian, reporting to the relevant authorities, or seeking professional support for the child.

Parents and guardians are encouraged to report any concerns or observations of possible abuse or harm. We take all reports seriously and act swiftly to ensure that children are safe and supported.

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## **6. Training and Education**

Burns Skills School is committed to providing ongoing child protection training for all staff, volunteers, and coaches. This training will:

- Educate staff on how to recognize the signs of abuse or neglect.
- Provide guidance on how to respond appropriately to concerns.
- Teach staff the importance of maintaining professional boundaries and ethical conduct with children.
- Promote an understanding of the role and responsibilities of staff in child protection.

We will also educate children, where appropriate, on personal safety and encourage them to speak out if they ever feel unsafe or uncomfortable

## **7. Code of Conduct**

All staff, volunteers, and coaches are required to adhere to a strict code of conduct designed to protect children and ensure their safety. The key points of our code of conduct include:

- Treating all children with respect and fairness.
  - Establishing healthy boundaries between staff and children (both physically and emotionally).
  - Avoiding any form of physical contact that may be misconstrued.
  - Encouraging positive behaviour and interactions while discouraging bullying or harmful behaviour.
  - Not engaging in any form of discrimination, harassment, or intimidation.
  - Always working in an open and transparent manner, ensuring that children are not left unsupervised in potentially vulnerable situations.
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## **8. Confidentiality**

We respect the confidentiality of children and families; however, if there are concerns about a child's safety, we may need to share information with relevant authorities, such as child protective services or law enforcement, as required by law. In all cases, we will ensure that information is shared appropriately and only with individuals who have a legitimate need to know.

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## **9. Parent and Guardian Involvement**

Burns Skills School believes that parents and guardians play an essential role in the protection of their children. We encourage open communication and collaboration between parents, guardians, and the school. Parents are invited to:

- Regularly check in on their child's participation in the program.
- Participate in any relevant training or workshops on child protection.

- Report any concerns about the welfare of their child or any child attending our coaching sessions.
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## 10. Review and Evaluation

Burns Skills School will regularly review and update this policy to ensure its effectiveness and relevance. We will also conduct periodic evaluations to ensure that our child protection practices are being followed and that any new risks or challenges are addressed.

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## 11. Contact Information

If you have any concerns or questions about child protection at Burns Skills School, please contact our Child Protection Officer (CPO) at:

**Child Protection Officer:**

Aaron Burns

Email: [aaron@burnsskillsschool.com](mailto:aaron@burnsskillsschool.com)

Phone: 07743298373



This Child Protection Policy is designed to ensure that Burns Skills School provides a safe and nurturing environment for all children. We are committed to taking every step possible to protect the children in our care and to act swiftly in the best interest of their well-being.