



SAFEGUARDING POLICY

Aquaoaks Artistic Swimming Club

Aquaoaks Artistic Swimming Club is committed to the safety and welfare of all swimmers and as a club affiliated to Swim England, has adopted and abides by Swim England's Safeguarding Policy and Procedures for Clubs; Wavepower 2020-24.

Wavepower is intended for anyone involved in these activities and offers practical guidance and information on mandatory requirements and good practice.

Ensuring the safety of each child and young person at Aquaoaks is a key part of how our club operates. It helps to provide a safe, happy and fun environment where children can learn to swim, develop their skills and achieve their potential.

The responsibility to safeguard children does not belong to any one person. Instead it belongs to everyone who plays a part in delivering our sporting activities, however at times we recognise that issues might need escalating.

In the first instance any issues should be raised with the coach or team manager who is present at the time the concern is raised. If the concern is related to this person or any issue arises outside of the club environment, then the club's Welfare Officers, Karen Morash and Lucy Ryan, can be contacted at welfare.aquaoaks@gmail.com

We will advise you as to the action to be taken and if necessary, refer the matter to the statutory agencies or the Swim England Safeguarding Team.

Should a child be at risk of immediate harm or has been harmed, please contact the Police on 999.

ChildLine is a private and confidential service for children and young people up to 19 years of age. Contact can be made with a ChildLine counsellor about anything, Calls are free on 0800 1111.

Aquaoaks provide an environment where all young people have the ability to achieve their full potential in a fun and enjoyable environment. To enable this, there needs to be a commitment from all young people to abide by Codes of Conduct which outline the expected behaviour of each young person.



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AquaOaks Artistic Swimming Club

We want you to:

- Feel welcome and safe in a friendly, happy atmosphere;
- Receive support, encouragement and praise when you achieve;
- Receive support and help in any areas that you find more difficult or challenging;
- To tell someone if you feel unhappy or afraid;
- Don't be afraid to say STOP if there is something that you are not happy about;
- AquaOaks will only share your concern with people who really need to know and once you have told someone about your problem, something will be done about it.

We will:

- Always listen to you and your needs as you are the most important part of our club;
- Always try to help you if you are afraid or unhappy;
- Treat you as a person, respect and value your thoughts and input into how the club is run;
- Provide you with opportunities to learn new skills and build your confidence.

We know it is not always possible for you to have the confidence to speak to someone, therefore the following websites provide lots of useful information that will help you:

Kent Sport

www.childline.org.uk

www.bullying.co.uk

Advice for Parents

As a parent, you play a key role in ensuring your child's safety at AquaOaks.

We make a commitment to focus on the wellbeing of your child. Remember, many people are volunteers and give their time to help ensure your child develops his or her artistic swimming skills in a safe, protected environment.

We ask in return that you make a commitment to the club in line with the club's commitment to your child. It doesn't have to be very time-consuming and can be as simple as ensuring your child turns up for training on time.

Please advise the club welfare officer or team coach/manager if your child has any particular needs, such as allergies or learning difficulties, to ensure they are provided for in the best way possible, and ensure any relevant new concerns/illnesses or ongoing treatments are reported appropriately to the club welfare officer or coach.