



NIKW Guide for protection of children

The clubs within the NI Karate-Do Wado-Kai association are committed to providing a safe environment for all children to practice Karate. To assist with this, the association ensures all instructors and officials follow a code of conduct when working with children.

Our code of conduct is designed to safeguard standards of behaviour, protect children and builds upon our child protection policy and procedures.

Children (under 18 years) using association facilities or on NIKW organised activities are entitled to:

- Be safe.
- Participate in activities on an equal basis appropriate to their ability & development.
- Be treated with dignity, sensitivity and respect.
- Make a complaint.
- Be listened to.
- Be believed.
- Be free & safe from bullying and abuse of trust.

To achieve this, NIKW Officials will:



- Treat all children with respect, sensitivity and dignity.
- Lead by good example.
- Encourage participation.
- Remain professional – not encouraging crushes, flirting and personal relationships, this includes contact via social networks.
- Try where possible to have two adult officials present during the administration of first aid.
- Act on their instincts if concerned about a child.
- Be aware of how to handle disclosure i.e. receiving information about child abuse.
- Ensure the associations child/supervision levels are adhered to. (copies are available from the Designated Child Protection Officer (DCPO) and on the associations website at www.irishkarate.com).
- Report all child protection incidents or suspicions to the DCPO or alternative official.
- React when aware of a child being bullied.

Instructors or Officials MUST not;



- Shout at children in an aggressive manner or use abusive language.
- Allow horseplay, rough or dangerous training practices.
- Permit abusive peer activities e.g. initiation ceremonies or bullying.
- Make sexually suggestive comments or innuendos even in fun, including comments on social networks.
- Enter a private house when only children present.
- Undertake activities of a personal nature that children could do for themselves.
- Ask unnecessary questions about a child's personal details.
- Show favouritism – treating all children equally.
- Inappropriately touch a child.
- Where possible allow themselves to be left alone with a child.
- Allow allegations made by a child to go unnoticed or unreported.
- Allow vulgar, foul or sectarian language or banter.

Note the points are not exhaustive.

It is not practical to provide instructions that would apply to all situations at all times. If you are in any doubt please feel free to contact our designated child protection officer for advice.

Breaches of this code will be investigated under the associations Disciplinary procedures and may result in disciplinary action.