

Listening to Children Policy



Of British Wadokai

英国和道会空手道連盟 - 本部道場

Valid from 1st January 2023

FEDERATION PRESIDENT
& CHIEF INSTRUCTOR
Gary E Swift (9th Dan) Hanshi

British Wadokai is a Full-Member of the
British Wado Federation

LISTENING TO CHILDREN

Guidelines for BWK Instructors/Coaches and Staff on listening to children.

You are in a position of trust and influence with children and young people and are ideally placed to recognise if a child is being abused whether during sports activities, at home, or in the community.

It is **NOT** your responsibility to **decide** if a child is being abused.

You **MUST ACT** on any concerns you may have.

BWK has clear guidelines about how child protection concerns and poor practice should be dealt with. You should make yourself aware of these and must follow them. Failing to respond to concerns or responding in contravention to BWK Child Protection Policy could have serious implications for the future handling of a case.

If a child tries to talk to you about something that is worrying them, it is important to listen carefully and respond sensitively:

- ❑ If the child tells you about abuse that they are experiencing, listen carefully to what they tell you.
- ❑ Don't ask direct questions. Avoid 'Who?' 'What?' 'When?' 'Where?'
- ❑ Encourage them to talk - 'Do you want to tell me about this?' - but do not pressurise them.
- ❑ Keep calm and even if you find what they are saying difficult or painful keep listening.
- ❑ Be honest with them about what you can and cannot do. Tell them you are not able to keep what they have told you secret and that you will try to find them the help they need.
- ❑ When they have finished make a detailed note of what they have said using the BWK Incident Record Form.
- ❑ As soon as possible, pass the information to the BWK Child Protection Officer, Liz Legg: admin@wadokai.co.uk or to the BWK President, Gary Swift: garyswift@wadokai.co.uk. If that is not possible then pass the information to someone in a position of authority within your club (club secretary, senior coach etc.).
- ❑ Do not contact or confront the alleged abuser.
- ❑ Find someone you trust to talk to about the situation or to support you but remember not to name or identify those involved in the allegations. You can call the NSPCC Child Protection Helpline on 0808 800 5000.
- ❑ If you have serious concerns about the immediate safety of the child contact the Police or Social Services. Record the name of the person you spoke to and tell the BWK CPO or BWK President what you have done.