

STOURBRIDGE GYMNASTICS ACADEMY

ANTI-BULLYING POLICY

Our commitment

Stourbridge Gymnastics Academy (SGA) is committed to providing a safe, inclusive and supportive environment where every gymnast feels respected, valued and able to enjoy gymnastics free from bullying, intimidation or discrimination. Bullying is not tolerated during classes, competitions, club activities or through online communication connected to the club.

What is bullying?

Bullying is repeated behaviour intended to hurt, intimidate, humiliate or exclude another person. It may be physical, verbal, emotional, social or online. Examples include:

- Name-calling, insults, threats or hurtful comments.
- Physical aggression or deliberately hurting another gymnast.
- Spreading rumours, deliberately excluding someone or encouraging others to do so.
- Cyberbullying, including harmful messages or posts intended to embarrass someone.
- Targeting someone because of their disability, appearance, background or personal characteristics.

A single incident may not constitute bullying but will still be taken seriously and addressed appropriately.

Responsibilities

Gymnasts: Treat others with kindness and respect, follow the club's code of conduct and report concerns to a coach or trusted adult.

Parents/guardians: Encourage respectful behaviour and raise concerns with SGA promptly, providing relevant information where possible.

Coaches/staff: Model positive behaviour, remain alert to signs of bullying, take concerns seriously and respond appropriately.

Reporting and responding

Any gymnast, parent, guardian or staff member can report a concern to a coach or the club's designated Welfare Officer. SGA will listen sensitively, make reasonable efforts to establish what has happened, support the gymnast affected and take appropriate action. This may include discussion, parental involvement, a behaviour plan, suspension or termination of membership in serious or persistent cases. Appropriate records will be kept and information shared only where necessary to safeguard those involved.

Retaliation against anyone who raises a concern in good faith will not be tolerated.

Review and contact

This policy will be reviewed periodically and updated where necessary to reflect current safeguarding guidance and British Gymnastics requirements. For concerns, contact **stourbridgegymnasticsacademy@gmail.com** or speak to the club's designated Welfare Officer. Serious safeguarding concerns should be raised promptly through the appropriate safeguarding channels.