

We recognise that:

- The welfare of any child or young person is paramount
- All children regardless of age, disability, gender, racial heritage, religious belief, sexual orientation or identity, have the right to equal protection from all types of harm or abuse.
- Working in partnership with children, young people and their parents/carers and other agencies is essential in promoting young people's welfare.

We will seek to safeguard children and young people by:

- Valuing them, listening to and respecting them.
- Recruiting staff safely, ensuring all necessary checks are made.
- Sharing information about concerns with named Child Protection leader in the school/organization.
- By following the Child Protection Policy of any institution within which we work.

Code of Behaviour

We will:

- Treat all children and young people with respect.
- Provide an example of good conduct we wish others to follow.
- Ensure that, whenever possible, there is more than one adult present during activities with children and young people or at least that we are within sight or hearing of others.
- Respect a young person's right to personal privacy and encourage young people and adults to feel comfortable and caring enough to point out attitudes or behaviour they do not like.
- Recognise that special caution is required when we are discussing sensitive issues with children and young people.
- Operate within the host organisation's principles and guidance and any specific procedures.
- Challenge unacceptable behaviour and report all allegations or suspicions of abuse.

We will not:

- Have inappropriate physical or verbal contact with children or young people.
- Be drawn into inappropriate attention-seeking behaviour or make suggestive or derogatory remarks or gestures in front of children or young people.
- Jump to conclusions about others without checking facts.
- Either exaggerate or trivialise a child abuse issue.
- Take a chance when common sense, policy or practice suggests another more prudent approach.

If a child or young person confides that they are being or have been abused they have placed that person in a position of trust.

We should:

- Be clear that we cannot keep secrets and that we have to pass on information if we think a child or young person has been or is being harmed in some way.
- React calmly. Panic may frighten or silence the person.
- Reassure the person they were right to tell.
- Make it clear the child / young person is not to blame.
- Take what is said seriously recognising that there may be difficulties in interpreting what is said by a child.
- Keep questions to an absolute minimum to ensure a clear and accurate understanding of what is being said. Only ask questions in order to clarify what is being said.
- Make a full record of what is being said, heard or seen as soon as possible.
- Not delay in passing information on to the Child Protection lead in the organisation.

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