

Worldham Parish Council Child Protection Policy

Adopted: May 2023

Review due: May 2026

1. Introduction

The Parish Council is a legal body governed by statute. It has a responsibility to ensure that all steps are taken to provide protection for children (those under the age of 18) and also for those beyond this age that may be construed as vulnerable because of mental or physical incapacity. In the event of a contractor, working directly for the Parish Council, being deemed to be working in any area where children may be at risk, then that contractor will be asked to provide their Child Protection Policy.

2. Policy Statement:

The Parish Council is committed to ensuring that children and vulnerable adults are protected and kept safe from harm whilst they are engaged in any activity associated with the Council.

The Parish Council will endeavour to achieve this by:

- Ensuring that staff are aware of the risk they may face in certain circumstances whilst carrying out their duties
- Ensuring that whilst Councillors are unlikely to be involved with children during the performance of their duties they are mindful of the risk they face
- Sharing information about child protection and good practice with partner organisations, councillors, employees, volunteers, parents and carers.

The Parish Council, or the Clerk in consultation with a councillor will make decisions on whether any person should be CRB checked.

2.1 Policy Objective:

- To ensure that where possible all the facilities offered by the Parish Council, principally through recreation and sport, are designed and maintained to limit risk to children and vulnerable people
- To ensure that users of any Parish Council facilities, whether an external organisation, such as clubs, or volunteers are protected by ensuring that they have, and provide to the Council, their child protection policy
- To promote the general welfare, health and development of children by being aware of child protection issues and to be able to respond where appropriate as a caring organisation
- To develop procedures in recording and responding to accidents and complaints and to alleged or suspected incidents of abuse
- Facilities such as the playground will be inspected on a regular basis and annually by a representative of RoSPA or a similar organisation. Any recommendations will be reported to the Parish Council and acted upon as directed
- If there is a child abuse incident it should be reported to the Clerk to the Parish Council, who will be responsible for ensuring the matter is handled and also referred to the Parish Council for further and future risk assessment.
- This policy will be reviewed yearly at the Annual Meeting of the Council.

3. Declaration

Worldham Parish Council is fully committed to safeguarding the well being of children by protecting them from physical, sexual and emotional harm.

All councillors, employees or volunteers of the Council should read the Council's Child Protection Policy. Having read the Policy they should be proactive in providing a safer environment for children and vulnerable people who use Council facilities.

The Council do not currently closely monitor play areas such as the playground or activities within the village hall and this fact should be considered when determining proposals for such facilities. Any breaches in policy will be determined by disciplinary procedures as felt appropriate