

Allington Hill Volunteers

Child Protection Policy

The Allington Hill Volunteers are a volunteer group working with the Woodland Trust to maintain and enhance Allington Hill. Children are encouraged to join in the general volunteer activities and in the events held during the year.

The group has a constitution governing its activities.

There is a Committee consisting of between 3 and 15 volunteers. This committee organises work days, events and fund raising.

There is no formal membership of the Allington Hill Volunteers.

Specific events are held 2 / 3 times a year, with activities provided for children. These events are open to anyone who wishes to attend,

There is an outdoor play trail consisting of sturdy play equipment suitable for children and adults. Use of this equipment is not supervised by the Allington Hill Volunteers.

Child Protection Policy

This policy outlines a code of practice, which will safeguard the welfare of children and young people within our activities and projects. The main principle of this policy is to act as a set of guidelines for our volunteers if they have substantial contact with children and young people.

Responsibility/Duty of Care

We have a duty of care towards all children and young people involved in our activities.. Parents and carers have a right to expect that volunteers who run activities for children and young people will not abuse their positions of trust and cause physical, sexual or emotional harm to those in their care.

Planning for Activities and projects

Before any activity is planned we will make sure that people are clear on their roles and responsibilities and that the following are considered:

- If the activity is going to be carried out by children/young people
- The volunteer/child ratio required and availability of volunteers.
- If the activity is the sole activity at the time
- The age groups of children involved and any special needs requirements.
- The skills and experience of volunteers
- The general health and safety requirements of the project e.g. space

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Volunteers

- We will aim to ensure that at no time is a single adult in the company of a lone child who is not their own.
- We will ensure that no activity takes place without being supervised by at least 2 responsible trained adults.
- Volunteers will ensure that other volunteers are not using their position to form a relationship with a child/young person and will be informed clearly that at no time should they encourage children/young people to their home.

How to deal with discovery or disclosure of abuse

- Volunteers must build good relationships with parents as well as children.
- Volunteers have a duty in law to take action if they have grounds for suspecting abuse is taking place. Concern first and foremost must be for the child. Volunteers may feel caught between their responsibilities to the parent and the child. However, the volunteers duty must be with the child. In any situation where child abuse is suspected, the social services department must be informed. Recordings of observations or discussions should be kept.
- If child abuse is suspected, confidentiality and sensitivity must be regarded at all times.
- Volunteers must inform a member of the Allington Hill Volunteers Committee.

Protection of volunteers.

- Although these guidelines are for the protection of children and young people, they are also there to protect the volunteers.
- An anxiety shared at an early stage can prevent trouble. E.g. A volunteer may be the object of provocative behaviour from a young person of the opposite sex. This must be reported to a member of the Allington Hill Volunteers Committee..