

WARK PARISH COUNCIL

SAFEGUARDING POLICY

Introduction

Everyone has a duty to safeguard children, young people and vulnerable adults. This policy promotes good practice in safeguarding for those using Parish Council facilities. The Parish Council will review it annually.

Definitions

Children and young people:

Anyone under the age of 18 years

Vulnerable Adult:

Anyone over 18 who is:

- Unable to care for themselves
- Unable to protect themselves from significant harm or exploitation
- Or may be in need of community care services

1. Scope

1.1 This Policy applies to trustees, employees, contractors and volunteers

2. Purpose

2.1 This policy sets out the expected behaviour when dealing with young and vulnerable persons. It is the policy of Wark Parish Council never to engage with children or vulnerable persons who are not accompanied by a suitable number of parents, guardians or adult helpers.

3. Requirements

3.1 Individuals are required to

- behave in an open and friendly manner, but avoid being over-familiar in word or action;
- In so far as is possible, avoid situations in which they are alone with children or vulnerable people. If necessary, move to a place where they can be seen by other volunteers or accompanying adults;
- If a child or vulnerable person is hurt or distressed, bring this to the

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immediate attention of those who are accompanying them;

- avoid any physical contact or behaviour that could be misconstrued or unwelcome. Physical touch should only be in response to a child's or vulnerable person's needs and should respect their age and individual stage of development;
- Where it is unavoidable to have physical contact the child must be given an explanation of that contact and seek their agreement;
- The child's or vulnerable person's welfare must always be paramount.

4. Prohibited behaviour

4.1 Children or vulnerable persons must never be subjected to any form of harm or abuse. Failure to honour this will be treated as gross misconduct and appropriate action will follow.

4.2 It is unacceptable to:

- Distress a child or vulnerable person by shouting at them or calling them derogatory names.
- Slap a child or vulnerable person.
- Hold a child or vulnerable person in such a way that causes pain or shake them.
- Physically restrain a child or vulnerable person except to protect them from harming themselves or others.
- Take part in horseplay or rough games.
- Allow or engage in inappropriate touching of any kind.
- Do things of a personal nature for children or vulnerable persons that they can do for themselves or an accompanying adult can do for them; this includes going to the toilet with a child or vulnerable person.
- Allow or engage in sexually suggestive behaviour within a child's sight or hearing, or make suggestive comments to or within earshot of a child.

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- Give or show anything that could be construed as being pornographic.
- Seek or agree to meet children anywhere beyond normal visitor areas.

5. Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS)

5.1 All employees, volunteers and trustees will be required to have an enhanced DBS check.

6 Reporting

6.1 Any behaviour that contravenes this policy should be reported to the

Chairman and Clerk Wark Parish Council: Email clerk@warkparishcouncil.gov.uk

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