

SAFEGUARDING CHILDREN POLICY

for

Whitchurch United Charities

1 Introduction

1 Whitchurch United Charities is a not-for-profit organisation run by:

Whitchurch United Charities registered charity No. 264826

2 Whitchurch United Charities is based in:

The Parish of Whitchurch, Oxfordshire.

3 Whitchurch United Charities is managed by a Body of trustees. One of the trustees has particular responsibility for safeguarding children.

4 The Body has adopted this Safeguarding Children Policy and expects every adult working or helping at Whitchurch United Charities to support it and comply with it. Consequently this policy shall apply to all trustees working on behalf of Whitchurch United Charities.

2 Purpose of the Policy

1 This policy is intended to protect children and young people who receive a grant from us.

2 As an organisation we believe that no child or young person should experience abuse or harm and are committed to the protection of children and young people and this policy is intended to provide guidance and overarching principles to those who represent us as trustees to guide our approach to child protection and safeguarding.

3 The risks to children

Nearly every child grows up in a safe and happy environment and it is important not to exaggerate or overestimate the dangers. Nevertheless, there are situations where children need protection including:

- Sexual abuse
- Grooming
- Physical and emotional abuse and neglect
- Domestic violence
- Inappropriate supervision by staff or volunteers
- Bullying, cyber bullying, acts of violence and aggression within our schools and campuses
- Victimisation
- Self-harm
- Unsafe environments and activities
- Crime
- Exploitation

4 Universality of Protection

We recognise that:

- the welfare of the child is paramount
- all children regardless of race, gender, religious belief, disability, age, sexual orientation or identity have a right to equal protection from harm.
- some children are more vulnerable to harm as a result of their circumstances, prior experiences, communication needs or level of dependency.
- working with children, young people, their parents and/or guardians, carers or other agencies is essential to protecting their wellbeing.

5 Disclosure and barring

1 Whitchurch United Charities offers the following benefit to children:

Grants are awarded to assist education for students resident in our parish

2 The Trustees will take very seriously any allegation of impropriety on the part of any member of Whitchurch United Charities. A member of Whitchurch United Charities who discovers anything amiss should get in touch immediately with the following:

Sarah Dragonetti

Katherine Higley

3 The Trustees will review the allegation and the likely risk to children and, if appropriate, will consider banning the member from future events or revoking his or her membership or both, but only in full accordance with the rules and procedures of Whitchurch United Charities and those of The Charity Commission.

6 Photographing children

No photographs will be taken.

7 Other Policies

This safeguarding policy should be read together with the following policies and resources:

Whitchurch United Charities complies with the GDPR and the Data Protection Act 2018.

All applications are treated in strict confidence by the trustees and the identity of those awarded grants is kept confidential.

8 Legal Framework

This policy has been drawn up in accordance with the following:

- Children Act 1989
- United Convention of the Rights of the Child 1991
- General Data Protection Regulation

- Human Rights Act 1998
- Sexual Offences Act 2003
- Children Act 2004
- Safeguarding Vulnerable Groups Act 2006
- Protection of Freedoms Act 2012
- Children and Families Act 2014
- Special educational needs and disability (SEND) code of practice - Guidance on the special educational needs and disability (SEND) system for children and young people aged 0 to 25, from 1 September 2014
- Information sharing: advice for practitioners providing safeguarding services
- Working together to safeguard children (2017)

NOTE: This Policy was approved by the following officer on 6th October 2020 and is due for review every 5 years:

Sarah Dragonetti