

# **Safeguarding Policy for the Weedon Old Schoolroom Management Committee**

## **1. Purpose**

This safeguarding policy sets out the Weedon Old Schoolroom Committee's understanding of the principles and its responsibilities towards safeguarding when hiring out the hall to third party contractors for paid activities and classes. Private events, such as private children's or adults' parties, do not form part of this policy.

We take seriously our duty of care and commitment to the protection and safety of everyone who enters our premises including children, young people and adults at risk involved as visitors and/or as participants in activities and events. We also have a duty to safeguard and support our trustees, volunteers, and staff.

## **2. Definitions**

**Children and young people** are defined as those persons aged under 18 years old. This policy will apply to all staff, contractors and volunteers.

Safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children is defined as:

- protecting children from maltreatment
- preventing impairment of children's health and development
- ensuring that children grow up in circumstances consistent with the provision of safe and effective care
- taking action to enable all children to have the best outcomes.

### **Adult at risk of abuse or neglect**

For the purposes of this policy, adult at risk refers to someone over 18 years old who, according to paragraph 14.2 of the Care Act 2015:

- has care and support needs
- is experiencing, or is at risk of, abuse or neglect
- as a result of their care and support needs is unable to protect himself or herself against the abuse or neglect or the risk of it. If someone has care and support needs but is not currently receiving care or support from a health or care service, they may still be an adult at risk.

## **3. Persons affected**

- All trustees, volunteers, visitors and contractors
- All those attending any activity or service that is being delivered from the Weedon Old Schoolroom

## **4. Policy principles**

The Weedon Old Schoolroom will take all reasonable action to protect children and adults at risk of abuse, exploitation, radicalisation, and mistreatment whilst on the Weedon Old Schoolroom premises. All citizens of the United Kingdom have their rights enshrined within the Human Rights Act 1998. People who are eligible to receive health and community care services may be additionally vulnerable to the violation of these rights by reason of disability, impairment, age, or illness.

The Weedon Old Schoolroom charity has a zero-tolerance approach to abuse. It recognises that under the Care Act 2014, it has a duty for the care and protection of adults who are at risk of abuse. It also recognises its responsibilities for the safety and care of children under the Children Act 1989 and 2004.

The Weedon Old Schoolroom charity is committed to promoting wellbeing, harm prevention and to responding effectively if concerns are raised.

The Weedon Old Schoolroom Committee is committed to the principles that:

- The welfare of the child, young person or adult at risk is paramount
- All children, young people and adults at risk have the right to protection from abuse
- Safeguarding is everyone's responsibility: for services to be effective each professional and organisation should play their full part; and
- All suspicions and allegations of abuse must be properly reported to the relevant internal and external authorities and dealt with swiftly and appropriately.

## 5. Procedures

- a. All members of the committee will have signed the Trustee Declaration of Eligibility form for trustees.
- b. All members of the committee will familiarise themselves with safeguarding responsibilities, including whistleblowing where relevant and ensure that they understand the principles set out in this policy at 4 above.
- c. All members of the committee will work together to promote a culture that enables issues about safeguarding and promoting welfare to be addressed.
- d. Members of the committee, helpers or other volunteers will not have unsupervised access to children or adults at risk unless appropriately vetted.
- e. Mrs Lizzy Birks (Email: [lizzy.birks@gmail.com](mailto:lizzy.birks@gmail.com)) who has received safeguarding training for young people, is appointed to be the primary person responsible for safeguarding matters for the Weedon Old Schoolroom. Mrs Penny Stevens (Email: [pennyask01@gmail.com](mailto:pennyask01@gmail.com)) is the secondary contact.  
  
They will keep the Committee updated on any relevant matters connected with safeguarding in this context and will have responsibility for reporting concerns that arise, as a matter of urgency, to the relevant safeguarding agency.
- f. All suspicions or allegations of abuse against a child or adult at risk will be taken seriously and dealt with speedily and appropriately. Mrs Lizzy Birks will report or seek advice from the appropriate authority in the event of an allegation or a concern about the quality of care or practice or a complaint. An allegation may relate to a person who works with children or adult at risk who has:
  - behaved in a way that has harmed a child or adult at risk or may have harmed a child or adult at risk.
  - possibly committed a criminal offence against or related to a child or adult at risk; or
  - behaved towards a child or children or adult at risk in a way that indicates they may pose a risk of harm to children.
- g. The hall committee will ensure that all hirers of the hall commit that they agree to adhere to this Weedon Old Schoolroom safeguarding policy when hiring the hall. This will require all hirers who wish to use the hall for organised activities which include children and adults at risk, other than for hire for private parties arranged for invited friends and family, to confirm that they have carried out relevant checks through the Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS).
- h. The village hall management committee will carry out an annual review of this policy.

Date prepared and agreed by the Committee: 22 June 2021

Next review date: August 2022