

SILEBY PARISH COUNCIL

CHILD PROTECTION POLICY

**Safeguarding and Protecting
Children in Sport**

INTRODUCTION

All sporting organisations which make provision for children and young people must ensure that:

- the welfare of the child is paramount
- all children, whatever their age, culture, disability, gender, language, racial origin religious beliefs and/or sexual identity have the right to protection from abuse
- all suspicions and allegations of abuse and poor practice will be taken seriously and responded to swiftly and appropriately
- all staff (paid/unpaid) working in sport have a responsibility to report concerns to the appropriate officer.

Staff/volunteers are not trained to deal with situations of abuse or to decide if abuse has occurred.

Very few of the activities of the Parish Council involves any Councillor or officer coming into direct contact with children, this is more so by the sporting organisations and groups operating in the village. However, all councillors and wider project teams are asked to remember their responsibility to ensure that good practice is promoted, with processes in place.

POLICY STATEMENT

Sileby Parish Council is committed to ensure, as far as possible, the safeguard of all children (who reside in the village or who visit the village) from harm. All children have a right to protection, and the needs of disabled children and others who may be particularly vulnerable must be taken into account. Sileby Parish Council will promote the safety and protection of all children involved in village activities through promotion and adherence to the Child Protection guidelines that have been adopted.

- A child is defined as a person under the age of 18 (The Children Act 1989).
- An activity refers here to the specific events, festivals and sessions involving the Parish Council. It does not extend to those carried out by independent organisations and clubs operating in the village (who will be expected to have in place their own policies and procedures).

POLICY AIMS

The aim of the Sileby Parish Council Child Protection Policy is to promote good practice:

- ensure, as far as is possible that anyone, paid or voluntary, who seeks to work with children and young people with substantial access to them, through activities involving the Parish Council is as safe to do so in child protection terms as can be guaranteed.
- allow all staff /volunteers to make informed and confident responses to specific child protection issues.

USE OF PHOTOGRAPHIC/FILMING EQUIPMENT AT VILLAGE SPORTING EVENTS

There is evidence that some people have used sporting events as an opportunity to take inappropriate photographs or film footage of young and disabled sportspeople in vulnerable positions. Activities involving the Parish Council must ensure that relevant consent is obtained, and that such films will be stored safely.

All organisations and groups operating in the village should be vigilant and any concerns should be reported to the Parish Clerk.

RECRUITMENT AND TRAINING OF STAFF AND VOLUNTEERS

Sileby Parish Council recognises that anyone may have the potential to abuse children in some way and that all reasonable steps are taken to ensure unsuitable people are prevented from working with children.

The Parish Council will ensure that the following checks are carried out on all prospective coaches and volunteers who will have substantial access to children and young people through activities involving the Parish Council:

- An Enhanced DBS check
- Personal referee, nominated by the applicant - a person who is not related to the applicant and who preferably knows of the applicant's character, trustworthiness, any previous experience of working with/looking after children and young people.

Written consent of the individual must be obtained to enable such enquiries to be made. No checks may proceed unless such consent is given by the applicant.

All children and young people under 18 using the facilities on the Memorial Park remain the responsibility of their parents or guardians whilst using the facilities.

Any concerns regarding the safety of children in the village using the facilities on the Memorial Park should be reported immediately to:

Clerk to Sileby Parish Council: Rosemary Richardson

Telephone: 01509 813075

Email: clerk@silebyparishcouncil.org.uk

Procedure to be followed by Sileby Parish Council

The Parish Clerk will report any issues to the relevant authority immediately.