

Safeguarding and Child Protection Policy Statement

Summer Boarding Courses is committed to Safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and expects all staff and volunteers to share this commitment. We have a comprehensive Safeguarding and Child Protection Policy and procedures in place which all employees, volunteers and contractors are expected to adhere to.

Safeguarding and Child Protection is **everybody's responsibility**. We recognise that we have a fundamental duty of care towards all children we engage with including a duty to protect them from abuse. We aim to achieve this through compliance with child protection laws and best practice guidelines. This is facilitated through a comprehensive staffing structure and dedicated welfare staff.

We recognise that:

- The welfare of children is paramount.
- All children, regardless of age, disability, gender, racial heritage, religious belief, sexual orientation or identity, have the right to equal protection from all types of harm or abuse.
- Working in partnership with children, young people, their parents, carers and protection agencies is essential in promoting young people's welfare.

The purpose of the policy is:

- To help make sure that children who engage in Summer Boarding Courses programmes are safe and protected;
- To provide a common understanding of child protection issues and inform staff of best practice;
- To provide step by step guidance to staff on what action to take if there is an allegation of or concern about actual or suspected situations of abuse.

This policy is mandatory for all Summer Boarding Courses staff. This includes anyone who works for Summer Boarding Courses, either in a paid or unpaid, full or part time capacity. This includes directly employed staff, contractors, and partner agencies.

We will seek to protect children by:

- Valuing them, listening to and respecting them.
- Adopting child protection systems and procedures for staff.
- Recruiting staff safely, ensuring all necessary checks are made.
- Sharing information about child protection and good practice with staff, children and parents/carers.
- Sharing information about concerns with agencies who need to know, and involving parents and children appropriately.
- Providing effective systems and daily routines to ensure that children are thoroughly supervised.
- Providing effective management for staff through supervision, support and training.

We will provide adequate and appropriate resources to implement this policy and will ensure it is communicated and understood.

Our policy will be reviewed on an annual basis and in line with any changes in law, best practice guidelines, or advice from our accrediting body.

This statement provides a summary of our commitment to the Safeguarding and protection of children in the care of Summer Boarding Courses. Our full Safeguarding and Child Protection Policy is available on request, in all summer school offices and at our Head Office.