

Children Ahead Safeguarding Statement

Children Ahead believes that it is always unacceptable for a child or young person to experience abuse of any kind and recognises its responsibility to safeguard and promote the welfare of all children and young people, through rigorous commitment to practice which protects them.

We recognise that:

- the welfare of the child/young person is paramount
- all children, regardless of age, ability, 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, and parents, carers and other agencies is essential in promoting young people's welfare

We will seek to safeguard children and young people by:

- valuing them, listening to and respecting them;
- adopting child protection guidelines through our policies, procedures and a code of conduct for staff and volunteers;
- sharing information about child protection and good practice with children, parents, staff and volunteers;
- sharing information about concerns with agencies who need to know, and involving parents and children appropriately;
- providing effective management to staff and volunteers through supervision, support and training.
- ensure appropriate action is taken in the event of incidents/concerns of abuse and support provided to the individual/s who raise or disclose the concern
- ensure that confidential, detailed and accurate records of all safeguarding concerns are maintained and securely stored
- prevent the employment/deployment of unsuitable individuals
- ensure robust safeguarding arrangements and procedures are in operation.

Responsibilities

Every member of staff and volunteer working for Children Ahead has a responsibility to safeguard children. Key members of staff take a lead in this area. We all have a duty to report concerns

wherever they arise for instance through our work in support of families, with regard to the behaviour or practice of staff, volunteers, other organisations or individuals.

Every member of staff and volunteer needs to have read and signed our full safeguarding policy and procedures.

As part of our safeguarding policy, Children Ahead will:

- promote and prioritise the safety and wellbeing of children and young people
- ensure everyone understands their roles and responsibilities in respect of safeguarding and is provided with appropriate learning opportunities to recognise, identify and respond to signs of abuse, neglect and other safeguarding concerns relating to children and young people

Legislation

Children Ahead adheres to all local and national safeguarding legislation including:

- Keeping children safe in education (2021, 2022, 2023) (KCSIE)
- Working together to safeguard children (2018) and subsequent updates
- After-school clubs, community activities and tuition: safeguarding guidance for providers (2023) and subsequent updates
- Children Act 1989, 2004
- GDPR 2018, Data Protection Act 1998 and subsequent guidance and regulations
- London Child Protection Procedures and Practice Guidance
- The Human Rights Act 1998
- The Equality Act 2010 (including the Public Sector Equality Duty)

Monitoring and review

Our policy will be reviewed every two years or in response to changes in legislation and/or government guidance or significant internal changes.

A copy of our safeguarding policy is available on request. Please email us at admin@childrenahead.org.uk or ask at the front desk.