

Oakenhoof Voluntary Arts Organisation

Our Safeguarding policy

This policy applies to all volunteers and the board of trustees, along with any sessional staff or those working on behalf of the organisation.

The purpose of this policy is:

- To provide a safe and secure environment for children and young people who are members of the group or who take part in activities organised or delivered by Oakenhoof. This includes the children of adults who use our services;
- To provide our volunteers and those involved with Oakenhoof with the overarching principles that guide our approach to safeguarding

Oakenhoof believes that a child or young person should never experience abuse of any kind. We have a responsibility to promote the welfare of all children and young people and to keep them safe. We are committed to practice in a way that protects them.

Framework

Our policy has been drawn up and based on an NSPCC sample (updated 2015) and falls under the law and guidance that seeks to protect children, namely:

- Children Act 1989
- United Nations Convention of the Rights of the Child 1991
- Data Protection Act 1998
- Sexual Offences Act 2003
- Children Act 2004
- Protection of Freedoms Act 2012
- Relevant government guidance on safeguarding children.

We recognise that:

- The welfare of the child is paramount, as enshrined in the Children act 1989
- All children, regardless of age, disability, gender, racial heritage, religious belief, sexual orientation or identity, have a right to equal protection from all types of harm or abuse
- Some children are additionally vulnerable because of the impact of previous experiences, their level of dependency, communication needs or other issues
- Working in partnership with children, young people, their parents, carers and other agencies is essential in promoting young people's welfare

We will seek to keep children and young people safe by:

- Valuing them, listening to and respecting them; involving our junior and youth roles in the assessment and planning relating to risks that may affect them

- Adopting child protection practices through procedures and a code of conduct for staff and volunteers
- Developing and implementing an effective e-safety policy and related procedures
- Providing effective management for volunteers through supervision, support and training
- Recruiting volunteers safely, ensuring all necessary checks are made
- Sharing information about child protection and good practice with children, parents and volunteers
- Sharing concerns with agencies who need to know, and involving parents and children as appropriate

We will review our policy and practice annually

This policy was last reviewed on 9th February 2016, in reviewing the risk assessment for Rushbearing / dance-outs 2016