



IN FOCUS EDUCATION & DEVELOPMENT CiC

SAFEGUARDING CHILDREN POLICY

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Subject: Safeguarding Children Policy

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Distribution: All employees, Volunteers, anyone working on or behalf of In Focus.

Issued by: Xavier Fiddes: Company Director 'Head of Operations'

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This policy sets out In Focus's approach to safeguarding children. If you have any comments, suggestions or amendments please put these in writing to the person issuing this policy.

Policy Statement

In Focus Education & development CiC recognises the welfare of a child is paramount and believes that safeguarding of children is everyone's responsibility. In Focus has adopted this Safeguarding Children policy and expects every adult working or helping to support and comply with it.

Purpose of the Policy

The aim of the policy is to ensure the protection of children by clearly outlining what action should be taken if any person has concerns that a child is or might be suffering harm. A child is a person under the age of 18.

This policy is intended to protect children and young people who receive any service from us including those who are the children of adults who may receive services from us.

All children have the right to be safeguarded from harm or exploitation whatever their

- Age
- Health or disability
- Gender or sexual orientation
- Race, religion, belief or first language
- Political or immigration status

What is safeguarding?

Safeguarding is defined as:

- Protecting children from maltreatment
- Preventing impairment of children's health and development
- Ensuring children grow up in circumstances consistent with the provision of safe and effective care
- Taking action to enable all children have the best of life chances

What is Child protection?

Child protection is one very important aspect of safeguarding. It refers to activity which is undertaken to protect specific children who are suffering or likely to suffer significant harm.

Nearly every child grows up in a safe and happy environment and it is important not to exaggerate or overestimate the dangers. Nevertheless, there are situations where children need protection including:

- Sexual abuse
- Grooming
- Physical and emotional abuse and neglect
- Domestic violence
- Inappropriate supervision by staff or volunteers
- Bullying, cyber bullying, acts of violence and aggression within our schools and campuses
- Victimisation
- Self-harm
- Unsafe environments and activities
- Crime
- Exploitation

There are no absolute criteria on which to rely on when judging what constitutes significant harm. Sometimes it might be a single traumatic event but more often it is a compilation of

significant events which damage the child's physical and psychological development. Decisions about significant harm are complex and, in each case, require discussion with the statutory agencies, Children's Social care and/ or police.

Safeguarding children at events / activities

There are three kind of events, defined as any occasion where In Focus will be providing a service:

- Those open to adults and children of all ages
 - Those for children accompanied by a 'parent'
 - Those for unaccompanied children
1. At events and activities which are open to children of all ages, children under 16 must be accompanied throughout by an adult over the age of 18 who not only brings the child but also takes the child home afterwards.
Young people aged 16 or 17 may attend unaccompanied if they bring written consent and a mobile telephone number of one of their parents.
 2. At events and activities for children accompanied by a 'parent', children under 16 must be supervised throughout the event by an adult over the age of 18 who not only brings the child to the event but takes them home again. If a lone adult brings more than one child, then the children must stay together so that the one adult can supervise them.
Young people aged 16 or 17 may attend unaccompanied if they bring written consent and a mobile telephone number of one of their parents.
 3. At events and activities for children accompanied by a 'parent', children under 16 must be enrolled by a responsible adult before being left with the event leader. The enrolment must include the child's name, age, address and the names and addresses of the child's parent(s), plus at least one parents'/guardian's mobile numbers. Young people aged 16 or 17 may attend unaccompanied if they bring the written consent and mobile telephone number of one of their parents.

Risk assessment

Before starting any event a risk assessment will be carried out by the team leading the event in order to minimise and risks to health and safety.

Parents will be advised of any specific risks.

Sufficient adults must be present at any event for unaccompanied children to enable one adult to deal with any emergency while another adult supervises the children not directly affected by the emergency.

Disclosure and barring

Some activities may require adult participants to undergo DBS and /or police checks under the Safeguarding Vulnerable Groups Act 2006.

Photographing children

No photographs will be taken or published by any person working on behalf of In Focus of any child attending an event or activity unless written permission is sought from a person with parental responsibility.

Prevention of bullying of children

In Focus will not tolerate the bullying of children either by adults or by other children. If an incident of child-on-child bullying should arise at an event those involved will be separated immediately and the parents will be asked to deal with the matter.

In Focus team will review all incidents of child-on-child bullying and assess the likely future risk to children which may include a decision to ban a child from all or some future events.

A parent may appeal this ban within two weeks and any appeal will be heard. In Focus will hear the views of any relevant persons. Any decision will be final.

Managing behaviour, discipline and acceptable restraint

Adults supervising children at In Focus events must never use any form of corporal punishment. If physical restraint is necessary to prevent injury to any person or prevent serious damage to property, then the minimum restraint may be used for that purpose only.

Reporting Procedures

If a person has a concern about a child's safety, then they should immediately inform the Company Director or in their absence the Co-Director.

The Director will review the concerns, make a written report and will take appropriate action which may include informing the relevant authorities or suspending a member of staff or any such other person carrying out work on behalf In Focus, pending further investigation.