



CHILD PROTECTION POLICY

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Blades Down Child Protection Policy

1. Introduction

Blades Down is committed to ensuring the safety and well-being of all children and young people who engage in our activities. This policy outlines our safeguarding procedures, reporting mechanisms, and risk management strategies to protect children from harm, abuse, and neglect.

2. Policy Statement

The welfare of the child is paramount.

All children, regardless of age, disability, gender, racial or ethnic background, religious belief, or sexual orientation, have the right to protection from abuse and harm.

We have a duty of care to safeguard all children in our programme.

We will take all concerns, suspicions, and allegations of abuse seriously and act upon them appropriately.

3. Legal Framework

This policy is in line with UK legislation, including:

The Children Act 1989 & 2004

The Working Together to Safeguard Children guidance

Keeping Children Safe in Education (KCSIE) 2023

The Safeguarding Vulnerable Groups Act 2006

The UN Convention on the Rights of the Child

4. Scope of Policy

This policy applies to:

All Blades Down staff, volunteers, and external partners

All children and young people participating in our activities

Parents, carers, and guardians involved in our programme

5. Roles and Responsibilities

Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL) **Danni Adams (Wilson)**

A named individual will be responsible for overseeing safeguarding within the project. They will:

Act as the main point of contact for safeguarding concerns.

Ensure all staff and volunteers understand and comply with this policy.

Liaise with external safeguarding agencies when necessary.

Maintain secure and confidential records of all concerns raised.

Staff and Volunteers

All staff and volunteers must:

Complete safeguarding training before working with children.

Follow the reporting procedures outlined in this policy.

Be alert to signs of abuse and take action when concerns arise.

Treat all children with dignity and respect.

Parents and Carers

Parents and carers play a key role in safeguarding and must:

Inform us of any concerns about their child's well-being.

Work in partnership with the project to maintain a safe environment.

6. Recognising Abuse and Neglect

All staff and volunteers must be aware of the signs of abuse and neglect, including:

Types of Abuse

Physical abuse – Hitting, shaking, burning, or causing physical harm.

Emotional abuse – Bullying, threats, humiliation, and ignoring a child's needs.

Sexual abuse – Forcing or persuading a child to engage in sexual activities.

Neglect – Failing to provide basic needs such as food, shelter, and supervision.

7. Reporting Concerns

All concerns about a child's welfare must be reported immediately to the DSL.

Reporting Procedure

1. Recognise – Identify potential signs of abuse or harm.
2. Respond – Listen to the child and reassure them; do not question them excessively.
3. Report – Inform the DSL without delay.
4. Record – Write down what the child said or what you observed. Use factual language and sign/date your report.
5. Refer – The DSL will assess the situation and contact the relevant authorities if necessary (e.g., local safeguarding board, police, or social services).

Confidentiality

Information will only be shared on a need-to-know basis.

Records will be stored securely in line with data protection laws.

8. Managing Allegations Against Staff or Volunteers

If an allegation is made against a staff member or volunteer:

The concern must be reported to the DSL immediately.

The individual will be removed from duties while an investigation is conducted.

If necessary, the Local Authority Designated Officer (LADO) will be informed.

The project will cooperate fully with external investigations.

9. Safe Recruitment

To ensure only suitable individuals work with children, we will:

Conduct enhanced DBS (Disclosure and Barring Service) checks on all staff and volunteers.

Verify references and previous experience.

Provide safeguarding training before any contact with children.

10. Code of Conduct for Staff and Volunteers

All staff and volunteers must:

Always act in the best interests of the child.

Avoid one-to-one situations where possible.

Never use physical punishment or aggressive behaviour.

Maintain professional boundaries and avoid inappropriate contact.

Report any concerns about colleagues' behaviour.

11. Managing Online Safety

Blades Down is aware of the risks children face online, including grooming, cyberbullying, and exposure to harmful content. To protect children:

Staff will not engage in private messaging with participants.

Any online activities will be monitored and safeguarded.

Children will be educated about online risks.

12. Risk Assessment and Safeguarding Procedures

To minimise risks during sessions:

All activities will be risk assessed.

Emergency procedures will be in place.

First aid provisions and trained staff will be available.

Staff will be aware of medical or additional needs of participants.

13. Whistleblowing Policy

All staff and volunteers have a duty to report unsafe or unethical practices. Whistleblowing reports should be made to the DSL or an external authority if necessary. Staff who report concerns in good faith will be protected from victimisation.

14. Policy Review

This policy will be reviewed annually or when significant changes occur in safeguarding legislation. Any updates will be communicated to all staff and volunteers.

Signed:

Directors

Danni Adams (Wilson) DSL

Daniel O'Connor

Lydia McClure

Date: 21.02.2026