

Whitley Chapel Parish Hall

Safeguarding Children Policy

1 Introduction

- Whitley Chapel Parish Hall is a not-for-profit organisation run by:

Whitley Chapel Parish Hall Charitable Trust (WCPHCT) is a registered Charity registration number 1069342

- Whitley Chapel Parish Hall is managed by a Management Committee. Jenny Morgan, one of the trustees has particular responsibility for safeguarding children.

The Management Committee has adopted this Safeguarding Children Policy and expects every adult working or helping at Whitley Chapel Parish Hall to support it and comply with it. Consequently this Policy shall apply to all Trustees, volunteers, hirers groups or anyone using Whitley Chapel Parish Hall.

2 Purpose of the Policy

- This policy is intended to protect children and young people who receive any service from WCPHCT, hirers, groups and individuals using the hall, including those who are the children of adults who may also be users of the hall
- WCPHCT believes that no child or young person should experience abuse or harm and are committed to the protection of children and young people and this policy is intended to provide guidance and overarching principles to those who represent us as volunteers or staff and to all user groups and hirers of the hall

3 The risks to children

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

4 Universality of Protection

We recognise that:

- the welfare of the child is paramount
- all children regardless of race, gender, religious belief, disability, age, sexual orientation or identity have a right to equal protection from harm.
- some children are more vulnerable to harm as a result of their circumstances, prior experiences, communication needs or level of dependency.
- working with children, young people, their parents and/or guardians, carers or other agencies is essential to protecting their wellbeing.

5 Safeguarding children at events / activities

There are three kinds of events/activities:

- those open to adults and children of all ages,
- those for children accompanied by a 'parent',
- those for unaccompanied children, which are sometimes run alongside other events/activities.

At events and activities open to 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 again afterwards. Young people aged 16 or 17 may attend unaccompanied if they bring the written consent and mobile telephone number of one of their parents.

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 also takes the child home again afterwards. If a lone adult brings more than one child, then the children will have to stay together, so that the one adult can supervise them.

At events and activities for unaccompanied children, children under the age of 16 must be enrolled by a responsible adult before being left with the event leader. The enrolment must record the child's name, age and address and the names and addresses of the child's parents, plus the parents' mobile telephone 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.

Both event and activities are to be defined broadly to include any occasions where Whitley Chapel Parish Hall is being used by a group or hirer

6 Disclosure

Groups and hirers of Whitley Chapel Parish Hall offer the following activities for children:

Toddler group, Young Farmers, drama productions, school concerts, private parties, club events

Some activities may therefore require adult participants or adult leaders to undergo DBS and/or police checks under the Safeguarding Vulnerable Groups Act 2006. The required level of checking (if any) will broadly reflect the degree and frequency of unsupervised access given to other people's children.

The Management Committee will take very seriously any allegation of impropriety on the part of anyone using the Hall. Such allegation of impropriety must be reported without delay to Jenny Morgan, the Trustees with responsibility for safeguarding children who will advise on the appropriate

action to be taken and report the matter to the management committee.

7 Health and safety aspects of safeguarding children

Before starting any event for unaccompanied children, The Group or Hirer will carry out a risk assessment and then take steps to minimise all risks to health and safety. Parents and children will be made aware of any particular risks and of the steps to be taken to minimise those risks. The Group or Hirer will keep a record of all risk assessments.

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.

8 Policy on the prevention of bullying

WCPHCT 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 any event, the parents of the children involved shall deal with the matter. In the event of re-occurring bullying, the matter shall be reported to the Management Committee.

Allegations of adults bullying children will be dealt with under paragraph 6 above.

9 Photographing children

No photos will be taken or published of any child attending an event or activity unless prior permission is obtained from a person with parental responsibility.

If any person has concerns regarding any person taking photos at an event or activity, that person should contact Jenny Morgan, the Trustee responsible for safeguarding children, who will advise on the appropriate action to be taken and report the matter to the management committee.

10 Managing behaviour, discipline and acceptable restraint

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

Unacceptable behaviour at events in Whitley Chapel Parish Hall for unaccompanied children will generally be stopped by separating the children from each other and from the group. The miscreants will be suitably supervised and will be returned as soon as possible to the care of their parents.

Whitley Chapel Parish Hall may apply a further disciplinary sanction; namely the banning of the child from one or more future events over the following 12 months. Any such sanction would be determined and applied by the Management Committee.

A parent who is aggrieved by this ban may appeal to the Management Committee who will hear the views of all relevant persons. The decision of the Management Committee is then final.