



Alvescot Parish Council

Child Protection Policy

Adopted on

17th January 2018

Signed.....
Chairman

Alvescot Parish Council maintains the playground in the Parish. This asset is open to the public, including children, at all times. The Parish Council has public liability insurance but people use the facilities at their own risk. Parents and carers are expected to supervise their children at all times.
The Parish Council does not currently organize events solely for children.

Introduction

This policy refers to children and young people up to the age of 18 years.

We believe that they have the right:

- to have fun
- to be safe
- to live their lives to the fullest potential
- to have the opportunity to participate in and enjoy any suitable activity
- to be treated with dignity and respect, and to be protected.

The Council, as represented by its members, officers, contractors, volunteers and agents, will take all reasonable steps to preserve the rights of young people as stated above while engaged in Council activities or attending Council venues. Alvescot Parish Council recognises its responsibilities under the terms of the Children Act 2004, earlier Children's Acts and other relevant legislation to make arrangements for ensuring that its functions are discharged having regard to the need to safeguard and promote the welfare of children and young people. The Council aims to do this by:

- Raising an awareness throughout the Council and beyond of Council's beliefs.
- Requiring all working on behalf of the Council to adhere to these beliefs.
- Creating a safe and healthy environment within all its services, avoiding situations where abuse or allegations of abuse may occur.
- Requiring staff and volunteers who work with children and young people to be subject to the appropriate level of Disclosure and Barring Service check.
- Implementing the appropriate disciplinary and appeals procedures where allegations of breaches are made by its staff or members.

1. Procedures

These procedures inform staff, elected members and volunteers of what actions they should take if they have concerns or encounter a case of alleged or suspected child abuse.

2. Responding To Concerns and Allegations

It is the duty of any member, or council employee or volunteer to report any concerns about a child being subject to abuse, receiving a disclosure or being aware of Members, or colleagues behaving in an inappropriate manner. All reports should be treated as confidential and with respect to the person raising the concern regardless of the outcome.

In general there are 3 situations that staff, elected members and volunteers may need to respond to a concern or case of alleged or suspected abuse:

1. Responding to a child or young person disclosing abuse, i.e. they make an allegation of abuse.
2. Responding to allegations or concerns about a member of staff, elected member or volunteer from your own observation or due to a complaint.
3. Responding to allegations or concerns about any other person, i.e. parent, carer, other service user.

In the case of an emergency where a child is in danger phone 999 immediately.

Record in writing all the details that have been reported and what was said, using the child or young person's own words, immediately. In the record the following should be included:

- a) The date and time.
- b) The child or young person's name, address and date of birth.
- c) The nature of the allegation.
- d) Your observations – a description of the child or young person's behaviour, physical and emotional state and any visible injuries.
- e) Exactly what the child or young person said and what you said. Record the child or young person's account of what has happened as closely as possible.
- f) Sign and date what you have recorded.

Do not ask questions, other than the child or young person's name, address and date of birth. Reassure the child or young person that they have done the right thing in telling you.

Contact local Social Services, 0345 241 2703, or the Police without delay and follow their guidance.

Every effort should be made to ensure that confidentiality is maintained for all concerned. Social Services, or the Police, must be the ones to inform parents or guardian, and the person about whom allegations are being made.

Recorded information should be handed over to Social Services or the Police and any copies stored in a secure place with limited access in line with data protection laws (e.g. that information is accurate, regularly updated, relevant and secure).

3. Photography

All photography should be made in public where young people are involved. The child or young person should be happy with having their picture taken.

The names of children or young people should not be used in photographs or video footage, unless with the express permission of the child or young person's parent.

There may be occasions when photographs of groups of children are taken at public events, eg: at the opening of a playground, village fete. Permission to use such images in the press, in village magazines, or on the website would not normally be expressly sought; this is common practice.

4. Contractors

A copy of this Policy is given to contractors at the commencement of their working on the Council's behalf. Contractors are therefore aware of, and should abide by, the Council's aims and procedures outlined in this policy.

5. Sources of Information/Support

Set out below are contact details for Organisations which may be of use to staff and volunteers or for support to children at risk.

Local Community Support Team North Area (LCSS)

☎ 0345 241 2703

The Kingfisher Team:

☎ 01865 309196

ChildLine

Free helpline for children and young people in the UK. Children and young people can call to talk about any problem. www.childline.org.uk

☎ 0800-1111

NSPCC

Information for children and adults www.nspcc.org.uk/html/home/needadvice.htm

☎ 0808-800-5000

Samaritans

www.samaritans.org

☎ 116 123