



The Children's Adventure Farm Trust safeguarding policy statement – October 2024

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At The Children's Adventure Farm Trust (CAFT) our charitable activities include working with vulnerable children and young people from schools, settings and as part of families and voluntary organisations. The purpose of this policy is to protect children and vulnerable adults and provide stakeholders and the public with the overarching principles that guide our approach in doing so.

Our Safeguarding Principles are:

That nobody who is involved with (CAFT) services should ever experience physical, psychological, or emotional, financial, sexual or institutional abuse, including neglect and exploitation.

We all have a responsibility to promote the welfare of all our beneficiaries, staff, and volunteers, to keep them safe and to work in a way that protects them.

We all have a collective responsibility for creating a culture in which our people not only feel safe, but also able to speak up, if they have any concerns.

This policy applies to anyone working on behalf of CAFT, including senior managers and the board of trustees, paid staff, volunteers, and students and users of our service

ALL PARTNER ORGANISATIONS WILL BE REQUIRED TO HAVE THEIR OWN SAFEGUARDING POLICIES AND PROCEDURES

Legal framework



This policy has been drawn up based on legislation, policy and guidance that seeks to protect children in England. A summary of the key legislation and guidance is available from nspcc.org.uk/childprotection.

We believe that:

- children and young people should never experience abuse of any kind.
- we have a responsibility to promote the welfare of all children and young people, to keep them safe and to practise in a way that protects them.

We recognise that:

- the welfare of children is paramount in all the work we do and in all the decisions we take.
- working in partnership with children, young people, their parents, carers and other agencies is essential in promoting young people's welfare.
- all children, regardless of age, disability, gender reassignment, race, religion or belief, sex, or sexual orientation have an equal right to 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.
- extra safeguards may be needed to keep children who are additionally vulnerable safe from abuse.

SEND Children/young adults

Children and young people with SEND could be more vulnerable to abuse and/or less able to speak out if something isn't right.

Some children may be vulnerable because they:

- have additional communication needs
- they do not understand that what is happening to them is abuse
- need intimate care or are isolated from others
- are dependent on adults for care.

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

- valuing, listening to and respecting them.
- appointing a nominated designated safeguarding lead for children and young people, a deputy, and a lead trustee/board member for safeguarding.
- adopting child protection and safeguarding best practice through our policies, procedures, and code of conduct for staff and volunteers.
- developing and implementing an effective online safety policy and related procedures
- providing effective management for staff and volunteers through supervision, support, training, and quality assurance measures so that all staff and volunteers know about and follow our policies, procedures, and behaviour codes confidently and competently.
- recruiting and selecting staff and volunteers safely, ensuring all necessary checks are made.
- recording and storing and using information professionally and securely, in line with data protection legislation and guidance.



- sharing information about safeguarding and good practice with children and their families via posters.
- making sure that children, young people, and their families know where to go for help if they have a concern.
- using our safeguarding and child protection procedures to share concerns and relevant information with agencies who need to know, and involving children, young people, parents, families, and carers appropriately.
- using our procedures to manage any allegations against staff and volunteers appropriately.
- creating and maintaining an anti-bullying environment and ensuring that we have a policy and procedure to help us deal effectively with any bullying that does arise.
- ensuring that we have effective complaints and whistleblowing measures in place.
- ensuring that we provide a safe physical environment for our children, young people, staff and volunteers, by applying health and safety measures in accordance with the law and regulatory guidance.
- building a safeguarding culture where staff and volunteers, children, young people, and their families, treat each other with respect and are comfortable about sharing concerns.

We will identify and manage online risks by ensuring:

- Volunteers, staff, and trustees understand how to keep themselves safe online. We use high privacy settings and password access to key documents.
- The online services we provide are suitable for users.
- The services we use and/or provide are safe and in line with our code of conduct.
- We protect people's personal data and follow [GDPR legislation](#).
- We have permission to display any images on our website or social media accounts, including consent from an individual, parent, etc.
- Online concerns may be reported using this policy, or direct to a social media provider using their reporting process. If you are unsure, [these organisations](#) will help.

We are committed to reviewing our policy with our board of trustees and good practice annually.

This policy was last reviewed on: October 2025

This policy was written using guidance from NSPCC and The Charity Excellence Framework

Appendix

<p style="text-align: center;">Neglect</p> <p>Neglect is the ongoing failure to meet a child's basic needs. This may include a child or young person being left hungry or dirty, without proper clothing or supervision or health care. Signs to look out for in children who visit CAFT: being smelly or dirty, being hungry, having unwashed clothes, having medical or dental issues, skin issues such as sores, rashes or flea bites, tiredness. The child maybe clingy, or aggressive, withdrawn or anxious, they may not be able to concentrate on activities.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Physical</p> <p>Physical abuse is when someone hurts or harms a child or young person on purpose.</p> <p>Signs of physical abuse to look out for in children visiting CAFT: unexplained or inadequate explanations for wounds, bruising, broken or fractured bones, burns or scalds, bite marks or scarring.</p> <p>The child/ young person may display apparent fear against family members, friends, or workers.</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">Sexual</p> <p>Sexual abuse is when a child or young person is forced or tricked into sexual activities. There are two types of sexual abuse, contact and non-contact.</p> <p>Signs to look out for in a child visiting CAFT: a child avoiding being alone with or frightened of a familiar person, language or sexual behaviour that you wouldn't expect them to know, self-harm, changes in eating habits, their mood, being angry or irritable. They may have unexplained bruises, bleeding, discharge, pains, or soreness in their genital or anal area. Children on residential may show signs of sleep problems and nightmares.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Emotional</p> <p>Emotional abuse is any type of abuse that involves continual, emotional mistreatment of a child or young person. It can involve deliberately trying to scare, humiliate, isolate or ignore a child.</p> <p>Signs to look out for in a child visiting CAFT: a child seeming unconfident or lacking self-assurance, struggles to control emotions, has difficulty making relationships and maintaining them, act in a way that is inappropriate for their age. They may exhibit extreme behaviour, transition from extreme anger to extreme tameness, display cruelty to others. Delay or regression in physical, emotional and social development.</p>

Signs of abuse



The Children's Adventure Farm Trust (CAFT) Safeguarding Overview

This overview is to be used in conjunction with the safeguarding statement and defines how CAFT staff will respond if they observe or are told of any sign of abuse. It is mandatory for everyone working on behalf of CAFT including senior managers and the board of trustees, paid staff, volunteers, and students to abide by our safeguarding statement.

How to Respond and Report (refer to signs of abuse)

A child has disclosed to you that they are being abused- listen calmly and reassure them that they have done the right thing, tell them that you are going to have to share this information. Identify if they are at immediate risk of harm (if yes radio the DSL/Deputy DSL immediately if that's not you or back up from staff and ensure that 999 is contacted immediately) If they are not at immediate risk then report to the DSL (school/setting if it is a day or residential group, CAFT if it is a family visit)

You observe signs of abuse – report and discuss with DSL (school/setting if it is a day or residential group, CAFT if it is a family visit).



Now Record

As soon as possible record exactly and accurately what was said to you/ you observed. Do not add your own version of events. Make sure that you record all information on the CAFT Safeguarding form. The lead DSL will decide next steps (if child not at immediate risk) and contact ChECS or the LADO or NSPCC.



Review

Ensure safeguarding practices are reviewed regularly by Designated Safeguarding Leads and Trustees and that they are accurate and that all staff members safeguarding training is up to date

<p>Designated Safeguarding leads Ian Eccles 07786088446 ian.eccles@caft.co.uk Katy Fagan forestschooll@caft.co.uk</p>	<p>Deputy Designated Safeguarding leads (one always on site) Angela Greenway, Rachel Priest, Caitlin Lynch, Lucy Cleworth, Simon Norbury, Charlie Fitzgerald</p>	<p>Named Safeguarding Trustee Nicola Graham ngraham.trustee@caft.co.uk</p>
<p>NSPCC Helpline 0808 800 5000</p>	<p>Cheshire East Consultation Service (ChECS) Office hours 0300 123 5012 Out of hours 0300 123 5022</p>	<p>LADO (local authority designated officer): Phil Alcock 01270 685904 or 07794434422 LADO@cheshireeast.gov.uk Phil.Alcock@cheshireeast.gov.uk</p>

IF A CHILD OR VULNERABLE ADULT IS AT IMMEDIATE RISK ALWAYS CONTACT THE POLICE on 999

This policy statement should be read alongside our organisational policies, procedures, guidance and other related documents:

- role description for the designated safeguarding lead
- dealing with disclosures and concerns about a child or young person
- managing allegations against staff and volunteers
- recording concerns and information sharing
- child protection records retention and storage
- code of conduct for staff and volunteers
- behaviour codes for children and young people
- photography and sharing images guidance
- safer recruitment
- online safety
- anti-bullying
- managing complaints
- whistleblowing
- health and safety
- induction, training, supervision and support
- adult to child supervision ratios.