

SAFEGUARDING CHILDREN POLICY

for

Without Walls

1. Introduction

Without Walls is a not-for-profit organisation managed by a committee of volunteers representing the three parishes in the “Rochester Cluster”.

It is a fund raising and administrative body which works with local churches, community organisations, stakeholders and individuals with an aim to support the provision of good quality nurture, educational and leisure activities for young people, youth, families and the elderly focussing especially on the "hard to reach" and those living in areas of relative deprivation.

Chair: Chris McCann

Chris McCann is nominated as having particular responsibility for safeguarding children.

The committee has adopted this safeguarding children policy and expects every adult assisting at any of the activities, events, outings or trips that Without Walls financially assists, to accept, support and comply with it.

2. Purpose of the Policy

- a. 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.
- b. As an organisation we believe 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 to those who represent us and to guide our approach to child protection and safeguarding.

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 and acts of violence and aggression
- Victimisation
- Self-harm
- Unsafe environments and activities
- Crime
- Exploitation

4. Safeguarding children at events / activities

- a. There are three kinds of events/activities:
 - i. those open to adults and children of all ages,
 - ii. those for children accompanied by a 'parent',
 - iii. those for unaccompanied children, which are sometimes run alongside other events/activities.
- b. 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.
- c. 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. Young people aged 16 or 17 may attend unaccompanied if they bring the written consent and mobile telephone number of one of their parents.
- d. 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.
- e. Both event and activities are to be defined broadly to include any occasions where Without Walls is supporting a service either directly or through funding or other means.

5. Disclosure and barring

- a. Without Walls offers the following activities for children:

Family trips, outings and activities in conjunction with the Rochester Cluster of churches and community organisations, stakeholders and individuals focussing especially on the "hard to reach" and those living in areas of relative deprivation.

- b. Some of the organisations supported by Without Walls may be required to ensure that adult participants or adult leaders 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.
- c. The Trustees will take very seriously any allegation of impropriety on the part of any member of Without Walls or any group or individual supported by funding or other means from Without Walls. Any participant in an activity supported by of Without Walls who discovers anything amiss should get in touch immediately with the following:

Chris McCann

- d. The Trustees will review the allegation and the likely risk to children and, if appropriate, will consider banning the individual from attending future events supported by Without Walls and/or refuse to support future events provided by the individual or organisation concerned, but only in full accordance with the rules and procedures of Without Walls.

6. Health and safety aspects of safeguarding children

- a. Before starting any event for unaccompanied children, the organisation or individual supported by Without Walls may be asked to 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 Trustees and the organisation concerned will keep a record of all risk assessments.
- b. 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.

7. Policy on the prevention of bullying

We will not tolerate the bullying of children either by adults or by other children. If any incident of child-on-child bullying should arise at an event supported by Without Walls, the organisers of the specific event will arrange to separate those involved immediately and the parents of the children involved will be asked to deal with the matter. The Trustees will review all incidents of child-on-child bullying and assess the likely future risk to children. If appropriate, the Trustees will consider banning a child from future events, but only in full accordance with the rules and procedures of Without Walls. Allegations of adults bullying children will be dealt with under paragraph 5c above.

8. Photographing children

No photos will be taken or published of any child attending an event or activity unless prior written permission has been obtained from a person with parental responsibility. If any person has any concerns regarding anyone taking photos at an event or activity, that person should contact the organiser of the event or a Trustee of Without Walls as soon as possible.

9. Managing behaviour, discipline and acceptable restraint

- a. Adults supervising children at Without Walls 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.
- b. Unacceptable behaviour at events supported by Without Walls 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.
- c. Without Walls or the supported group or organisation may apply a further disciplinary sanction; namely the banning of the child from one or more future events over the following 18 months. Any such sanction would be determined and applied by the following officer:

Chris McCann

- d. A parent who is aggrieved by this ban may appeal to Without Walls who will hear the views of all relevant persons. The decision of Without Walls is then final.

10. Legal Framework

This policy has been drawn up in accordance with the following:

- Children Act 1989
- United Convention of the Rights of the Child 1991
- Data Protection Act 1998
- Human Rights Act 1998
- Sexual Offences Act 2003
- Children Act 2004

- Safeguarding Vulnerable Groups Act 2006
- Protection of Freedoms Act 2012
- Children and Families Act 2014
- Special educational needs and disability (SEND) code of practice - Guidance on the special educational needs and disability (SEND) system for children and young people aged 0 to 25, from 1 September 2014
- Information sharing: advice for practitioners providing safeguarding services
- Working together to safeguard children (2017)

NOTE: This Policy was approved by the following officer on 16/05/2018 and is due for review every Year at the AGM for Without Walls:

Chris McCann

Policy Review

Date:

Amendments:

Signed:
