



- This document sets out Tedburn St Mary Parish Council's approved and agreed practices. Any deviation must be made by resolution of the full Council and recorded below.
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SAFEGUARDING POLICY

1 INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 This Policy applies to all activities at the Children's Play Area, Millennium Orchard and events held in the village that involve/invite children and to all working in such activities, whether as a volunteer, Parish Council representative or otherwise.

2 OBJECTIVE

- 2.1 The Objective of this **Safeguard Policy** is to contribute to the personal safety of all children using the facilities and resources of the Children's Play Area or attending public events with parish council involvement, through actively promoting awareness, good practice and sound procedures.

3 IMPLEMENTATION

- 3.1 The Parish Council shall appoint one of their number as Responsible Officer (**RO**) for all aspects of child protection awareness and implementation of this policy.
- 3.2 The RO will be responsible for:
- 3.2.1 Ensuring that this policy is implemented;
 - 3.2.2 Reporting of allegations and suspicion of abuse to the appropriate authorities; and
 - 3.2.3 Reporting on the implementation of this policy.

3.3 All Councillors, staff and voluntary workers will actively endeavour to implement this policy.

4 ACTIVITIES

4.1 The RO shall ensure a site audit is undertaken to ascertain the layout of premises/site, helpers and supervision required to achieve adequate personal safety of children and young people. There may be a need to audit an existing site etc if, in the opinion of the RO there have been significant changes since the last use of that site.

4.2 For their own protection, but mainly as good practice and good manners, helpers are advised that children should initiate physical contact with helpers - this will not apply e.g. where a child needs to be removed from a situation threatening its or others' safety.

5 REPORTING OF CONCERNS

5.1 Those using the Children's Play Area or involved with any parish council activity/event have a duty to ensure that any suspicion, incident, allegation or other manifestation relating to child protection is reported as provided below.

5.2 Disclosure or evidence for concern may occur in any number of ways. This may be by what a child says, about itself or another child or children. It may be through interception of a written item, or through observation of activity or behaviour giving cause for concern. It may be through changes in behaviour or attitude. There may be physical, emotional pointers such as bruising, staining, inappropriate behaviour or knowledge. These and many other signs can be picked up by workers.

5.3 **IT IS VITAL FOR THE SUCCESSFUL OPERATION OF THIS POLICY THAT ALL INCIDENTS, OBSERVATIONS, HOWEVER INSIGNIFICANT-SEEMING, ARE REPORTED BY THE OBSERVER(S) TO THE RO.**

5.4 The RO will make an **immediate Report to the Police** where, in the judgement of the RO, after due consultation with the people involved, there is perceived to be an immediate danger to a child or detection of criminal offences against a child or other form of obvious, ongoing/future/recent serious harm.

5.5 The RO should bear in mind that we may not be privy to all or indeed much information about a given child's situation, as held by Social Services - but our item of information may assist in promoting a child's welfare.

6 FEEDBACK AND REPORTING

6.1 In giving any feedback to observers, the RO has to bear in mind "need to know" and confidentiality. So, the observer who made a report can be told what action has been taken by the RO.



6.2 In regular reports on child protection matters to the Parish Council, the RO will report any formal report to the Police, omitting children's and families' names.

7 AWARENESS

7.1 All users of the Children's Play Area shall have this policy drawn to their attention.

8 REVIEW OF THIS POLICY

8.1 The Parish Council shall review this policy, its effectiveness and regarding its implementation every two years and the RO shall ensure that any statutory authority input is sought as appropriate.