

SAFEGUARDING PROCEDURE

Safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children, for the sake of this policy is defined as:

- ✎ Protecting children from maltreatment
- ✎ Preventing the impairment of children's health or development
- ✎ Ensuring that children are growing up in circumstances consistent with the provision of safe and effective care.
- ✎ Taking action to enable all children to have the best outcomes. (*Definition taken from the HM Government document 'Working Together to Safeguard Children 2015'*)

Within the forest school environment, we support the children within our care, protect them from maltreatment and have robust procedures in place to prevent the impairment of children's health and development.

Safeguarding is a much wider subject than the elements covered within this single child protection policy, therefore this document should be used in conjunction with the other Swallows & Amazons policies and procedures.

At Swallows and Amazons Forest School we will work with children, parents, external agencies, and the community to ensure the welfare and safety of children and to give them the very best start in life. Children have the right to be treated with respect and to be safe from any abuse in whatever form.

To this end we will:

- ✎ Create an environment to encourage children to develop a positive self-image
- ✎ Encourage children to develop a sense of independence and autonomy in a way that is appropriate to their age and stage of development
- ✎ Provide a safe and secure environment for all children
- ✎ Always listen to children
- ✎ Provide an environment where practitioners are confident to identify where children and families may need intervention and seek the help they need
- ✎ Share information with other agencies as appropriate

Swallows and Amazons Forest School has a clear commitment to protecting children and promoting welfare. Should anyone believe that this policy is not being upheld, it is their duty to report the matter.

In an emergency, contact the police, call 999

If the person is not in immediate danger, contact the police, call 101

In the event there is a safeguarding issue or incident, the incident will be recorded by the person who was the witness. This will be done as soon as possible after the event, using the forms available from the Forest School leader.

The FS leader is the DSL and should be informed of any incident or concern.

If the concern is about the FS lead, staff can report using the numbers above.

All staff have training in safeguarding children, which is updated annually.