



Ver Valley Society Safeguarding Policy For Children & Vulnerable Adults

Background:

The Ver Valley Society is a not-for-profit community group with no permanent employees. Our activities tend to involve work in or alongside flowing water and regularly involve the use of hand tools.

From a Health and Safety perspective and in view of the scope of our insurance cover, the participation of children and vulnerable adults is restricted to those who can attend with their own adult supervision. Activity where we present to schools and the like is conducted at a school's request with the children under their supervision.

Safeguarding Policy

1. The Ver Valley Society has a moral obligation and a legal duty of care to ensure that all children and vulnerable adults are safe and protected from harm whilst participating in any VVS-led work and/or activity.
2. The VVS believes that every child and vulnerable adult should have the support to:
 - Stay Safe
 - Enjoy and achieve
 - Make a positive contribution
3. A person is defined as a child, legally, until they reach their eighteenth birthday. We recognise a Vulnerable Adult as a person who is aged 18 or over and who is, for any reason, unable to protect themselves against significant harm or exploitation. We will give equal priority to keeping all children and vulnerable adults safe regardless of their age, disability, gender, race, religion or belief, sex, or sexual orientation.
4. Steps for officers, volunteers and members to follow to avoid putting themselves or children or adults at risk
 - a. Avoid working or being alone with a child, young person or adult in a private or unobserved situation or if this is unavoidable ensure that the line manager is informed • Avoid unnecessary physical contact with a child, young person or adult
 - b. Protect information on, and images of, children and adults being misused Advice on avoiding problems
 - c. Do not use verbal or physical chastisement that could be classified as abuse, (including shaking, hitting and shouting, swearing, or humiliating behaviour)

- d. Do not enter any premises at the invitation, or with the acquiescence, of a child or young person unless an adult householder is also present
- e. Do not allow a child, young person or adult to make close physical contact with you
- f. Ensure that if any form of a manual/physical support is required it should only be provided when absolutely necessary in relation to the activity
- g. Try to avoid taking a child alone in a vehicle
- h. Do not film or photograph children, young people or adults where they can be identified, or allow others to do so, or use the images without expressed and recorded permission from their parent or guardian
- i. Do not use general photographs of children or adults unless they are appropriately dressed. (It is also preferable that they are in groups and engaged in an activity). Again, consent from the parent or guardian must be obtained first
- j. Do not do things of a personal nature that the child, young person or adult is able to do themselves
- k. Do not use physical restraint except as a last resort to prevent the child, young person or adult causing damage or injury to themselves or another person
- l. Do not publish information about children that could lead to them being identified or traced

5. Reporting Concerns:

Action to be taken by members and volunteers if they feel that a child, young person or adult is at risk:

- a. Report disclosure, allegations and concerns to our designated Safeguarding Officer without delay.
- b. It is recognised that the Ver Valley Society is not a 24-hour service, and if it is suspected a person is, or could be in significant and immediate harm, and a designated safeguarding officer isn't available, the information should be passed on immediately to the Police directly by calling 999, (and then the Safeguarding Officer notified afterwards).

6. Safeguarding Officer: Melanie Woods. 07983 569736 mellorwoods@gmail.com