

MODBURY PARISH COUNCIL
CHILD PROTECTION POLICY 2018

Reviewed and adopted by Modbury Parish Council 4th May 2021
Due for review May 2022

Policy Statement:

Modbury Parish Council has a duty of care to safeguard all children involved in any activities directly sponsored by the Council and to ensure that any organisation that utilises the facilities or services of the Council for activities involving children has adequate policies and procedures in place to provide adequate child care protection. A child is defined as a person under the age of 18 years of age – The Children Act 1989.

Policy Aims;

The aim of the policy is to promote good practice, set out the Council's requirements relating to organisations using its services and facilities and provide guidelines for dealing with suspected instances of child abuse.

What is Child Abuse and how is it apparent?

Behavior directed toward a child usually by an adult that harms a child's physical or emotional health and development. Child abuse includes four major categories: physical abuse, sexual abuse, emotional abuse, and neglect.

There are a number of ways in which abuse becomes apparent:

- A child discloses an event that has happened
- Someone else either an adult or another child discloses that a child has told them an event has happened or they strongly believe that a child has or is being abused
- A child may show signs of physical injury for which there is no satisfactory explanation
- A child's behaviour may indicate that there are problems which may be as a result of abuse
- The behaviour of the person in whose care the child is, causes concern

Promoting Good Practice and the Council's Requirements:

Modbury Parish Council undertakes to take all reasonable steps to ensure that the facilities it provides for the use of the public will be adequately maintained to secure the health and safety of the user and will be adequately insured.

Any organisation or group which uses the Council's facilities for activities involving children as defined by the Children Act 1998 must have their own Child Protection Policy or agree to observe in full the Council's Child Protection Policy.

It is the responsibility of the person making the booking on behalf of the organisation or group to sign the booking form to signify their observance of this policy requirement.

No group or organisation will be accepted unless they can either produce copies of their Child Protection Policy or demonstrate that they are able to conform to the Council's policy.

Good Practice:

All persons involved with children should behave in an exemplary manner which will protect themselves from false allegations – this means:

- Always work in an open environment - avoid private/unobserved situations and endeavour to work in pairs with other adults
- All persons children or adults, disabled or able bodied, must be treated equally, with respect and dignity
- Where any form of manual or physical support is required it should be provided openly and in accordance with the guideline set out in the relevant Coaching Education Programme. In such situations the young person should be consulted and their agreement obtained and their parents views taken into account
- Coaches and volunteers have a duty of care to ensure that they have up to date relevant qualifications, attend appropriate training programmes and maintain adequate insurance
- Parents/Carers should be involved and consulted whenever possible. For example they should be encouraged to take responsibility for their own children in changing rooms. Where supervision is required in changing rooms it should always be carried in pairs be that by teachers, coaches, parents or officials
- If mixed sex teams or groups are involved there should always be a male and female adult supervisor present
- During tournaments or residential events adults should not enter a child's room alone or invite a child into their room
- Smoking and or consuming alcohol should not occur in front of young persons
- Ideally parental consent in writing should be sought in order to act in *loco parentis* should an emergency arises which requires the administration of first aid or other medical treatment
- A written record of any injury that occurs together with details of any treatment given should be maintained
- Club officials should obtain written parental consent before providing transport in their own cars to children

No Person should:

- Engage in rough, physical or sexually provocative games with children
- Share a room with a child
- Allow or engage in any form of inappropriate touching
- Allow children to use inappropriate language unchallenged
- Make sexually suggestive comments to children
- Reduce a child to tears as a form of control
- Allow allegations from a child to go unchallenged, unrecorded or not acted upon

- Do things of a personal nature for a child that they cannot do for themselves
- Invite or permit children to stay at a house or after activities unsupervised

It may on occasions be necessary to do things of a personal nature for a child or disabled adult particularly if they are very young or disabled. This should only be done on the understanding and consent of the parents and the person involved. Ideally there should always be another person present and the nature of the task undertaken should be fully explained to the person involved and as to why it is taking place.

The following incidents must be reported and /or recorded:

Another colleague and the parents of any child should be informed and a written note should be kept if:

- A child or person is hurt or injured
- A child seems distressed
- A person appears to be sexually aroused at anytime
- A person misunderstands or misinterprets something you have done

There have been occasions when video and photography has been used by spectators to take inappropriate photos or films of children. All clubs should be vigilant to this and any concerns raised with the appropriate Club Child Protection Officer

Modbury Parish Council recognises that anyone may have the potential to abuse children in some way and therefore it requires that any organisation or club using its facilities or services has taken adequate steps to ensure unsuitable persons are prevented from working with children – this means that the organisation or club must:

- Be able to demonstrate that it has an established selection and screening procedure for all staff and volunteers involved with children that includes taking evidence of identity, searches of the Criminal Records Bureau and any other relevant register, independent referencing taking, the substantiation of qualifications and an application and interview process including written application and self disclosure regarding any criminal activity.
- Demonstrate that it provides appropriate recognised training programmes for all staff and volunteers involved with children including induction training and on going training in matters pertaining to the coaching of children and associated issues
- Has an appointed Child Protection Officer who has been trained by a recognised body in matters pertaining to child abuse and in appropriate procedures for addressing and investigating such issues through an agreed process including escalation to the police