

## Our group follows the National Office Safeguarding policy

Safeguarding refers to the proactive approach to keeping children, young people and adults at risk safe from harm.

RDA places the highest priority on safety and enjoyment, and recognises that it has a duty of care to those taking part. To ensure this, RDA UK and its member groups are committed not only to protecting those who use their services but also to promoting their welfare by taking all reasonable steps to ensure risks of harm are minimised.

In pursuit of this, RDA is committed to ensuring that:

- The welfare of children, young people and adults at risk are paramount and they have the right to protection from abuse.
- It takes all reasonable, practical steps to protect from harm, discrimination and degrading treatment.
- All concerns and allegations of poor practice or abuse are taken seriously and responded to swiftly and appropriately.
- All RDA member groups sign up to the RDA Safeguarding Policy.
- All employees and volunteers are carefully selected, informed about their responsibilities and provided with guidance and/or training in good practice and safeguarding procedures.
- Everyone knows and accepts their responsibilities and works together for the safeguard of all involved.

To report a concern:

- Call RDA National Office on 01926 492915
- Out of hours call 07599 236036
- Alternatively, call the NSPCC 24 hour safeguarding line on 0808 800 5000

If you think someone is at immediate risk of abuse or harm, contact either the police or social services.

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### Instructors

All our instructors attend Safeguarding training on a regular basis which must be refreshed every 3 years. There is an on-line refresher course, however if their previous refresher was via e-learning, they must attend a face to face course the next time.

### Volunteers

We have a safe selection process where volunteers are DBS checked and have to provide details of two referees on a standard application form.

Abingdon RDA Safeguarding Officer: [Alice Summersbee](#).

# Safeguarding Statement

## The purpose and scope of this policy statement

Abingdon RDA works with children, young vulnerable adults and families as part of its activities. These include: horse/pony riding and instruction, equine related competitions and fun days. It may also include carriage driving and horse vaulting.

## The purpose of this policy statement is:

- To protect , young people and vulnerable adults who receive Abingdon RDA's services. This includes the children of adults who use our services.
- To provide parents, staff and volunteers with the overarching principles that guide our approach to child and adult protection. This policy statement applies to anyone working on behalf of Abingdon RDA, including senior managers and the board of trustees, paid staff, volunteers, sessional workers, agency staff and students.

## Legal framework:

This policy has been drawn up on the basis of legislation, policy and guidance that seeks to protect children in England.

A summary of the key legislation and guidance is available from [nspcc.org.uk/childprotection](http://nspcc.org.uk/childprotection).

## We believe that:

- Children , young people and vulnerable adults should never experience abuse of any kind.
- We have a responsibility to promote the welfare of all children and young people and vulnerable adults, to keep them safe and to practise in a way that protects them.

## We recognise that:

- The welfare of the child or vulnerable adult is paramount.
- All children and vulnerable adults, regardless of age, disability, gender reassignment, race, religion or belief, sex, or sexual orientation have a right to equal protection from all types of harm or abuse.
- Some children and adults are additionally vulnerable because of the impact of previous experiences, their level of dependency, communication needs or other issues.
- Working in partnership with children, young people, their parents, carers and other agencies is essential in promoting young people and vulnerable adults's welfare.

### **We will seek to keep children and young people safe by:**

- Valuing, listening to and respecting them.
- Appointing a nominated safeguarding officer and a deputy safeguarding officer.
- Developing child protection and safeguarding policies and procedures which reflect best practice.
- Using our safeguarding procedures to share concerns and relevant information with agencies who need to know, and involving children, young people, parents, families and carers appropriately.
- Creating and maintaining an anti-bullying environment and ensuring that we have a policy and procedure to help us deal effectively with any bullying that does arise.
- Sharing information about child protection and safeguarding best practice with children, their families, staff and volunteers via leaflets, posters, group work and one-to-one discussions.
- Recruiting staff and volunteers safely, ensuring all necessary checks are made.
- Providing effective management for staff and volunteers through supervision, support, training and quality assurance measures.
- Implementing a code of conduct for staff.
- Using our procedures to manage any allegations against staff and volunteers appropriately
- Ensuring that we have effective complaints and whistleblowing measures in place
- Ensuring that we provide a safe physical environment for our children, young people, staff and volunteers, by applying health and safety measures in accordance with the law and regulatory guidance.
- Recording and storing information professionally and securely.

### **Bullying Policy**

Bullying of staff members, volunteers, adult and child riders and work experience pupils will not be tolerated in any form.

Bullying consists of :

- Bullying related to physical appearance
- Bullying related to physical/mental health conditions
- Physical bullying
- Emotional bullying
- Sexual bullying
- Bullying via technology, known as online or cyberbullying
- Prejudicial bullying (against people/pupils with protected characteristics)
- Bullying related to race, religion, faith and belief and for those without faith
- Bullying related to ethnicity, nationality or culture
- Bullying related to Special Educational Needs or Disability (SEND)
- Bullying related to sexual orientation (homophobic/biphobic bullying)
- Gender based bullying, including transphobic bullying

### **Whistleblowing:**

Any concerns should be reported to our Safeguarding officer.

**Responding:**

- Will listen to concerns
- Ensure our members are aware that bullying concerns will be dealt with sensitively and effectively; that everyone should feel safe to learn and abide by the anti-bullying policy
- If the matter is not solved easily, will arrange a meeting with all concerned and include two Trustees who are not involved.
- Will intervene by identifying and tackling bullying behaviour appropriately and promptly.