

Thurlestone Parish Council Safeguarding Policy 2025

Adopted May 2023 at the Annual Meeting of the Parish Council

Reviewed May 2025

The Parish Council recognise that they have a responsibility to promote the health and welfare and safeguarding of children, young people, and vulnerable adults, taking part in activities organised by the Parish Council.

The Council fully supports the 2003 Green paper - Every Child Matters. The Council undertakes to promote children, young people, and vulnerable adults:

- being healthy: enjoying good physical and mental health and living a healthy lifestyle
- staying safe: being protected from harm and neglect.
- enjoying and achieving: getting the most out of life and developing the skills for adulthood
- making a positive contribution: being involved with the community and society and not engaging in anti-social or offending behaviour.
- economic well-being: not being prevented by economic disadvantage from achieving their full potential in life.

This policy shall apply to the Parish Council, its volunteers and members when organising events on behalf of the Parish Council, parents, guardians and young people themselves. Children, young people and vulnerable adults and youth members are defined as those under the age of eighteen.

RESPONSIBILITIES:

The named and lead Councillor responsible for Safeguarding Children, young people and vulnerable adults can be found on the Parish Council Website. **The Designated Persons for Safeguarding are South Hams District Council Ward Councillors, Cllr Mark Long and Cllr Samantha Dennis.**

The Parish Council and those involved in Parish Council events have a responsibility to:

- Ensure the health and welfare of children, young people and vulnerable adults whilst participating in Parish Council activities.
- Respect the rights, wishes and feelings of children, young people and vulnerable adults.
- Implement procedures to safeguard the well-being of children, young people and vulnerable adults and to protect them from harm and abuse.
- Prevent the radicalisation of children, young people and vulnerable adults from minority groups and be aware of this as a risk to their wellbeing
- Ensure that relevant personnel are trained to safeguard and protect children, young people and vulnerable adults from abuse and to minimise the risk to themselves.
- Relevant personnel to adopt and abide by this policy.
- Respond to all allegations of misconduct or abuse of children, young people and vulnerable adults or vulnerable adults with discretion and thoroughness.
- Report any incidents or disclosures to the Designated Persons for Safeguarding.

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PRINCIPLES:

The welfare and safeguarding of children, young people and vulnerable adults is the primary concern. All children, young people and vulnerable adults, regardless of their age, culture, disability, gender, racial origin, social background, religious belief or sexual identity have the right to protection from harm and abuse.

It is the responsibility of all volunteers involved in/with the Parish Council to report any concerns to the Council.

All incidents of alleged poor practice, misconduct and abuse must be taken seriously and responded to in a timely fashion and appropriately by the relevant authorities.

The privacy of all persons involved must be respected but all information must be disclosed to the Designated Persons for Safeguarding.

You must advise any informant of your inability to keep information 'secret'.

SUMMARY:

The Parish Council takes the safeguarding of children, young people and vulnerable adults very seriously. By promoting good practice and addressing the subjects of bullying, emotional, physical and sexual abuse, all members of the Parish Council are working to ensure that children, young people and vulnerable adults will be able to pursue their chosen sport in a safe, happy and enjoyable environment.

IT IS THE RESPONSIBILITY OF CHILD PROTECTION EXPERTS (WITHIN LOCAL AUTHORITIES) TO DETERMINE WHETHER OR NOT ABUSE HAS TAKEN PLACE, BUT IT IS EVERYONE'S RESPONSIBILITY TO REPORT CONCERNS.

PROCEDURES:

GOOD PRACTICE: ALL SHOULD ADHERE TO THE FOLLOWING PRINCIPLES:

- Ensure experience at Events is fun and enjoyable; promote fairness, confront and deal with bullying and never condone rule violations or the use of prohibited substances.
- Be an excellent role model.
- Treat all young people and vulnerable adults equally, this Means giving both the more and less talented in a group similar attention, time, respect and dignity.
- Respect the developmental stage of each young person/vulnerable adult and place their welfare before winning, club or personal achievements. This means ensuring that the training intensity is appropriate to the physical, social and emotional development stage of the participant. Ensure training and competition schedules are based on the needs and interests of the individual concerned, not those of the parents, instructors or club.

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- Wherever possible conduct all training and meetings in an open environment; and endeavor to avoid one-to-one coaching in unobserved situations.
- Maintain a safe and appropriate relationship with participants; it is inappropriate to have an intimate relationship with a child/young person/vulnerable adult. One adult should never share a room with one child/young person/vulnerable adult. Occasionally situations may occur when a number of young people and adults share a common sleeping area i.e. Camp – although this is not recommended. Always ensure that parents' permission is gained in writing beforehand and participants are given an opportunity in advance to discuss this, air any concerns and agree the logistics of the sleeping arrangements.
- Build relationships based on mutual trust and respect in which young people are encouraged to take responsibility for their own development and decision-making. Avoid situations in which the instructor or team manager uses their position and power to dictate what the participant should and should not do.
- Avoid unnecessary physical contact; if contact is required in teaching technique, follow the specific guidelines laid down by that sport governing body.
- Ensure separate changing facilities are available for participants. Where supervision is required, involve parents wherever possible and ensure that adults work in pairs.
- Communicate regularly with parents and carers, involve them in decision-making and gain written consent for travel arrangements. Secure their consent in writing to act in loco parentis if the need arises to give permission for the administration of emergency first aid and/or other medical treatment.
- Be aware of any medical conditions, food intolerances, existing injuries and medicines being taken. Keep a written record of any injury or accident that occurs, together with details of any treatment given. Ensure you are qualified and up to date in first aid or that there is someone with a first aid qualification in attendance.
- When participants travel away from home, ensure the guidance contained in the NSPCC publication: Safe Sports Events is understood and followed. In particular, if mixed teams are taken away; ensure they are accompanied by a male and female member of staff and safeguard them from the potential of same gender abuse. Adults should not enter children, young people/vulnerable adults's rooms or invite children, young people and vulnerable adults on their own into their own rooms.
- Report any concerns in regard to health and wellbeing (including any suspicions of radicalisation) to the Parish Council. This should be done in written form, with a time and date attached and the participants own words should be used wherever possible. Do not make assumptions; ensure you state clearly what has occurred or what has been said.

POOR PRACTICE: THE FOLLOWING IS DEEMED TO CONSTITUTE POOR PRACTICE AND SHOULD BE AVOIDED BY ALL:

- Avoid spending excessive amounts of time alone with one child /young person/vulnerable adult away from the others.
- Avoid taking children, young people and vulnerable adults to your home where they will be alone with you.
- Never engage in rough, physical or sexually provocative games, including horseplay.

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- Never share a room with a child, young person or vulnerable adult.
- Never allow or engage in any form of inappropriate touching.
- Never allow children, young people and vulnerable adults to use inappropriate language unchallenged.
- Never make sexual suggestive comments to a child, even in fun.
- Never reduce a child, young adult or vulnerable person to tears as a form of control.
- Never allow allegations made by a child to go unchallenged, unrecorded or not acted upon.
- Never do things of a personal nature for children, young people and vulnerable adults that they can do for themselves.
- Never invite or allow children, young people and vulnerable adults to stay with you at your home unsupervised.
- Avoid taking children, young people and vulnerable adults alone on car journeys.
- If cases arise where these situations are unavoidable, they should only occur with the full knowledge and consent of the person in charge or the child's parent.

If any of the following incidents should occur, you should report them immediately to another member, make a written note of the event and inform parents of the incident:

- If you accidentally hurt a participant.
- If a child, young person or vulnerable adult seems distressed in any manner.
- If a child, young person or vulnerable adult appears to be sexually aroused by your actions.
- If a child, young person or vulnerable adult misunderstands or misinterprets something you have done.
- Maintain a safe and appropriate distance with participants; do not allow an intimate relationship to develop and avoid horseplay and sexually suggestive language.
- Always work in an open environment; try to avoid private locations and/or one-to-one teaching in unobserved situations. This may be unavoidable, and effort should be made to ensure the instructor/pupil has a companion.
- Involve parents/carers whenever possible; when travelling ensure adults work in pairs and never share a room with a child, young adult or vulnerable person.
- Follow the Parish Council code of conduct and the recommended procedures if you have concerns about the welfare of a child, young person or vulnerable adult.
- Gain further safeguarding & protection awareness and knowledge