

Eastleach Parish Council

www.eastleachparishcouncil.org

Child Protection Policy

Policy Statement

Eastleach Parish Council is committed to ensuring that children and vulnerable adults are protected and kept safe from harm whilst they are engaged in any activity associated with the Parish Council.

Policy Objective:

- To ensure that where possible all facilities and activities offered by the Parish Council are designed and maintained to limit risk to children and vulnerable people.
- To promote the general welfare, health, and development of children by being aware of child protection issues and to be able to respond where appropriate as a local government organisation.
- To develop procedures in recording and responding to accidents and complaints and to alleged or suspected incidents of abuse and neglect.
- As the Parish Council does not directly provide care or supervision services to children, it expects all children using its facilities to do so with the consent and the necessary supervision of a parent or other responsible adult.

Aims

The aim of this policy document is to guide members of Eastleach Parish Council should any child protection issue arise during their work.

Responsibilities & Procedures

- Ensuring that before any Parish Council-organised event with children or vulnerable persons, this policy is shared with participants.
- Ensuring that whilst Council members are unlikely to be involved with children during the performance of their duties, they are mindful of the risk they face.

All new councillors are to be provided with a copy of the child protection policy and are required to acknowledge they will abide by it.

Councillors will adhere to the 'List of Recommended Behaviour' namely:

- A minimum of two adults present when supervising children.
- Not to play physical contact games.
- Adults to wear appropriate clothing at all times
- Never do anything of a personal nature for a young person.

Facilities offered by the Parish Council have been inspected on a regular basis and at least

annually by a representative of RoSPA or a similar organisation.

Responding to Allegations

- Remain calm, listen, and take allegations seriously.
- Do not investigate; only ask clarifying questions.
- Record facts and refer to the appropriate authority (see contacts below).
- Maintain confidentiality but ensure proper reporting.
- Ensure that the child/vulnerable adult understands that the information they provide may need to be referred to an appropriate adult or organisation.

Who to contact

The Council recognises that children or vulnerable adults cannot be expected to raise concerns in an environment where councillors or volunteers fail to do so. All members of the Council should be aware of their duty to raise concerns about the attitude or actions of colleagues and appropriate advice will be sought from Gloucestershire Safeguarding Children Partnership www.gloucestershire.gov.uk/gscp.

In an emergency, out of office hours, or if a child is believed to be at immediate risk of harm/suffered significant harm, you should call the police via 999.

You should contact the Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH) for concerns involving children on:

Children's Services Front Door team (9:00am-5:00pm): **01452 426565**

Emergency Duty Team (from 5:00pm-9:00am): **01452 614194**

Declaration

Eastleach Parish Council is fully committed to safeguarding the well-being of children by protecting them from physical, sexual, emotional harm and neglect.

All members of Eastleach Parish Council should read the Council's Child Protection Policy. Having read the Policy, they should be proactive in providing a safe environment for children and vulnerable people who are involved in Parish Council activities.