



CHILD PROTECTION POLICY STATEMENT

MERSEYSIDE CHRISTIAN YOUTH CAMPS

Is committed to creating and maintaining the safest possible environment for children and young people at Abererch.

We do this by:

- Recognising that all children have the right to freedom from abuse.
- Ensuring that all our staff and volunteers are carefully selected and accept responsibility for helping to prevent the abuse of children in their care.
- Responding swiftly and appropriately to all suspicions or allegations of abuse, and providing parents and children with the opportunity to voice any concerns they may have.
- Ensuring access to confidential information is restricted to the Director or the appropriate external authorities.
- Reviewing the effectiveness of our Child Protection Policy and activities each year.
- By appointing nominated persons who will take specific responsibility for child safety policy and act as reference point for parents, children and outside agencies

Our Nominated Persons are:

Norman G Goodwin
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Paul Daniels
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GUIDELINES FOR SAFEGUARDING CHILDREN'S WELFARE

Please read the following guidelines carefully – they will help you to understand child abuse and what to do if a child tells you about abuse

Forms of child abuse

Sexual abuse

Both boys and girls can be sexually abused in the following ways

- Full sexual intercourse, masturbation, oral sex and fondling
- Showing children pornographic books and videos
- Asking children to take part in making videos or taking pornographic photographs.

Physical abuse

Physical abuse can be in the form of injuries sustained through hitting, shaking, squeezing, biting or burning.

Neglect

Where adults:

- Fail to meet a child's basic physical needs e.g. food, warmth and clothing.
- Constantly leave children alone and unsupervised
- Fail or refuse to give children love, affection or attention.

Neglect might also occur during organised activities if young people are placed in an unsafe environment, are exposed to extreme weather conditions or at risk of being injured.

What to look for:

- Pain, itching, bruising or bleeding in genital area
- Stomach pains
- Discomfort when walking
- Unexplained sources of money
- Inappropriate drawings, language or behaviour
- Aggressive, withdrawn behaviour or fear of one person

- Unexplained or untreated injuries
- Injuries on unlikely parts of the body
- Cigarette burns, bite or belt marks, scalds
- Fear of parents being contacted, going home or receiving medical advice
- Flinching when touched
- Refusal to discuss injury
- Covering arms and legs

- Poor personal hygiene
- Constantly hungry
- Inappropriate clothing or dress
- Constantly tired
- Lonely, no friends
- Underweight
- No parental support or interest
- Dishevelled appearance

What to look for:

Forms of child abuse

Emotional abuse

This form of abuse includes:

- Persistent lack of love or affection
- Frequently shouting at children
- Taunting children
- Over-protection which can lead to poor social skills.

Emotional abuse may also include situations where parents or organisers subject children to constant criticism, bullying or unrealistic pressure to perform to high expectations

- Over-reaction to mistakes
- Sudden speech disorders
- Extremes of emotions
- Self-mutilation

What to do if a child tells you about abuse

- Most importantly, you should listen attentively and let he/she know it was right to tell someone about their worries.
- Stay calm and make sure that the child feels safe and knows that he/she is not to blame for what has happened.
- Explain that you will have to tell someone else about the abuse if it is to stop.
- Only ask questions that establish what was done and who did it.
- Make a note of what the child said and the date and time of your conversation.
KEEP THE INFORMATION CONFIDENTIAL.
- Don't act without seeking help from the Director. Social Services or the police must be informed about all suspected cases of child abuse.
- Seek advice before telling parents

The Child-safe Code for staff and volunteers

Do:

- Treat all young people with respect and take notice of their reactions to your tone of voice and manner
- Always seek child's consent if he/she is very young or disabled and needs help to go to the toilet.
- Remember it is okay to touch children in a way which isn't intrusive or disturbing to them or to observers – but be careful.
- Make sure that any allegations or suspicions are recorded and acted upon.

Do not:

- Engage in rough physical games including horseplay
- Touch children in an intrusive or sexual manner
- Make sexually suggestive comments to a child, even as a joke.
- Do things of a personal nature that a child can do for themselves, such as going to the toilet or changing clothes.

Try to avoid:

- Spending too much time alone with a child
- Giving a child a lift in your car
- Taking a child to your home

If some of these situations are unavoidable, try to get parental permission first. If this isn't possible make sure you let parents know what has happened as soon as you can.