



CHILD PROTECTION POLICY

Adopted: 24th May 2022

Review: May 2023

INTRODUCTION

Datchworth Parish Council is committed to ensuring that children and young people are protected and kept safe from harm whilst they are engaged in any activity associated with the Council and to establish the following principles:

- **Anyone under the age of 18 years is considered to be a child.**
- The welfare of a child is paramount.
- All children and young people without exception, have the right to protection from abuse and for their rights, feelings, and views to be respected.
- All suspicions and allegations of abuse will be taken seriously and responded to swiftly and appropriately.

In line with these principles the Parish Council will aim to:

- Create a healthy and safe environment for all activities, where children and young people feel safe and secure.
- Promote the general welfare, health and full development of children and young people during activities.
- Promote and implement appropriate procedures to safeguard the well-being of children and young people and protect them from abuse.
- Respect the rights, wishes and feelings of children and young people and ensure that they are listened to.
- Ensure that any allegations made by a child are not allowed to go unchallenged, and that any allegations and suspicions are investigated, recorded and acted upon promptly.
- Ensure that councillors, staff and volunteers are well informed, supported and enabled to provide the best possible practice.
- Ensure that all new employees/volunteers who will work with, or come into contact with, children and young people in the course of their work activities will complete a disclosure form from the Criminal Records Bureau to ensure that there are no irregularities in their background that may give cause for concern.
- Ensure that all new employees/volunteers will be provided with the Child Protection Policy and asked to sign to confirm that they understand it and will abide by it.
- The Parish Council will appoint a Child Protection Officer who will ensure that procedures are put in place to enable the aims of the Parish Council to be met and to initiate appropriate action should any allegation of improper conduct be made.

The Council's Child Protection Officer is the Clerk to the Council **Ms Susan Hake**.

This policy will be reviewed every year or earlier if so required by legislation or additional material.

Date of policy: May 2022

Approving committee: Full Council

Date of committee meeting: 24th May 2022

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Date for next review: May 2023