

CHILD SAFEGUARDING POLICY

NATURE BEANZ ADVENTURES

Child Safeguarding Policy

Policy Introduced:

January 2024

Policy reviewed annually, most recent review:

JANUARY 2026

Policy Reviewed by:

Gareth Jones (Manager)

For the purpose of this document and for Nature Beanz Adventures safeguarding policies and procedures, children are defined as:

“Any person under the age of 18 years”

Key contact details:

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Legislation and relevant guidance:

Nature Beanz/ Little Beanz is committed to ensuring that policies and procedures remain up to date and are reflective of current legislation and guidance, currently including:

The Children Act 1989

Children Act 2004

Safeguarding Vulnerable Groups Act 2006

Protection of Freedoms Act 2012

Working together to safeguard children (Guidance 2015)

Safeguarding Policy Statement

Nature Beanz Adventures provides sport and nature activities to children aged between 2 – 18 years old in a variety of settings and venues. This is delivered primarily in morning/ afternoon sessions, day camp sessions and/or residential activities (should permission allow).

Under UK guidance a child is anybody under the age of 18

We acknowledge the duty of care to safeguard and promote the welfare of children and are committed to ensuring safeguarding practice

reflects statutory responsibilities, government guidance and complies with best practice and Ofsted and any other regulatory body requirements.

The policy recognises that the welfare and interests of children are paramount in all circumstances. It aims to ensure that regardless of age, gender, religion or beliefs, ethnicity, disability, sexual orientation or socio-economic background, all children;

- have a positive and enjoyable experience at all Nature Beanz Adventures activities sessions in a safe and child centred environment
- Are protected from abuse whilst participating in programmed sessions or outside of the activity whilst your child is in our care. There are four primary categories of abuse (Physical, sexual, emotional, and neglect); in addition to these we also take account of “Bullying” as a form of abuse. Definitions of these can be found within the “Safeguarding Procedures” section of the Parents Guide.

We acknowledge that some children, including disabled children and young people or those from ethnic minority communities, can be particularly vulnerable to abuse and we accept the responsibility to take reasonable and appropriate steps to ensure their welfare

As part of our safeguarding policy we will:

- Promote and prioritise the safety and wellbeing of children and young people
- Ensure everyone understands their roles and responsibilities in respect of safeguarding and is provided with appropriate learning opportunities to recognise, identify and respond to signs of abuse, neglect and other safeguarding concerns relating to children and young people
- Ensure appropriate action is taken in the event of incidents/concerns of abuse and support provided to the individual/s who raise or disclose the concern

- Ensure that confidential, detailed and accurate records of all safeguarding concerns are maintained and securely stored
- Prevent the employment/deployment of unsuitable individuals
- Ensure robust safeguarding arrangements and procedures are in operation

The policy and procedures will be widely promoted and are mandatory for everyone involved in Nature Beanz. Failure to comply with the policy and procedures will be addressed without delay and may ultimately result in dismissal/exclusion from the organisation.

This policy forms part of our safeguarding procedures, which can be found following this statement.

Monitoring

The policy will be reviewed every three years, or in the following circumstances:

- Changes in legislation and/or government guidance
- As required by the Local Safeguarding Children Board, UK Sport and/or Home Country Sports Councils and Ofsted
- As a result of any other significant change or event.

This policy is our general statement on child safeguarding and welfare.

Safeguarding

Safeguarding Procedures Background

At Nature Beanz we acknowledge the importance of protecting children from abuse. All complaints, allegations or suspicions are taken very seriously. We cannot guarantee confidentiality as the matter may develop in a way that this cannot be honoured, and need reporting to the appropriate authorities such as social services, police and /or MASSH. However, we have strict guidelines on sharing information, which we adhere to.

Data Protection

We will treat any personal information by which an individual can be identified (i.e. name, address, email etc.) in accordance with the provisions of Data Protection Act 2018 (DPA 2018), and the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) and will not share information with any third party, except where required by law. Nature Beanz Adventures is registered under the ICO

Confidentiality

This policy is in line with government guidance about confidentiality and these details will be made available to all workers, children, young children, adults at risk, parents and carers.

We fully endorse the principal that the welfare of children, young people and adults at risk, override any obligations of confidence we may hold to others. No one working within this organisation can promise absolute confidentiality where a child, young person or adult at risk may be at risk of harm. Individual cases will only be shared or discussed on a “need to know” basis. Under “whistle blowing” anyone in our organisation may refer direct to Social Care Services, the police or the manager, as relevant, if they are concerned that a child, young person or adult is at risk of harm and this policy is not being adhered to

Working Practices

Staff Ratios to Child, Young Person and Adult at Risk: Host organisation staff are present at all times with our personnel when they are working with children and young people. Our staff are never responsible for managing any groups and we never work in one-to-one situations. When running sessions under Nature Beanz a ratio of 1:6 or 1:8 will be followed

Forms of abuse:

The following information identifies the different forms of abuse defined by the NSPCC in 2015 and for which all our coaches and instructors and staff will be/ have been trained in recognising and reacting to any suspicions

Child Abuse

Child abuse is any action by another person – adult or child – that causes significant harm to a child. It can be physical, sexual or emotional, but can just as often be about a lack of love, care and attention. We know that neglect, whatever form it takes, can be just as damaging to a child as physical abuse.

An abused child will often experience more than one type of abuse, as well as other difficulties in their lives. It often happens over a period of time, rather than being a one-off event. Increasingly it can happen online.

Online Abuse

Online abuse is any type of abuse that happens on the web, whether through social networks, playing online games or using mobile phones. Children and young people may experience cyber bullying, grooming, sexual abuse, sexual exploitation or emotional abuse.

Children can be at risk of online abuse from people they know, as well as from strangers. Online abuse may be part of abuse that is taking place in the real world (for example bullying or grooming). Or it may be that the abuse only happens online (for example persuading children to take part in sexual activity online).

Children can feel like there is no escape from online abuse – abusers can contact them at any time of the day or night, the abuse can come into safe places like their bedrooms, and images and videos can be stored and shared with other people.

A child may be experiencing abuse online if they:

- Spend lots, much more or much less time online, texting, gaming or using social media
- Are withdrawn, upset or outraged after using the internet or texting
- Are secretive about who they're talking to and what they're doing online or on their mobile phone
- Have lots of new phone numbers, texts or e-mail addresses on their mobile phone, laptop or tablet.

Sexual Abuse

A child is sexually abused when they are forced or persuaded to take part in sexual activities. This doesn't have to be physical contact, and it can happen online. Sometimes the child won't understand that what's happening to them is abuse. They may not even understand that it's wrong.

There are two different types of child sexual abuse. These are called contact abuse and non-contact abuse.

Contact abuse is where an abuser makes physical contact with a child, including penetration.

Non-contact abuse covers other acts where the abuser doesn't touch the child, such as grooming, exploitation, persuading children to perform sexual acts over the Internet and flashing.

Children who are sexually abused may:

- Stay away from certain people
- They might avoid being alone with people, such as family members or friends
- They could seem frightened of a person or reluctant to socialise with them.
- Show sexual behaviour that's inappropriate for their age
- A child might become sexually active at a young age
- They might be promiscuous

- They could use sexual language or know information that you wouldn't expect them to
- Have physical symptoms, Anal or vaginal soreness
- An unusual discharge
- Sexually transmitted infection (STI)
- Pregnancy

Physical Abuse

Physical abuse is deliberately hurting a child causing injuries such as bruises, broken bones, burns or cuts.

It isn't accidental - children who are physically abused suffer violence such as being hit, kicked, poisoned, burned, slapped or having objects thrown at them.

Shaking or hitting babies can cause non-accidental head injuries (NAHI).

Sometimes parents or carers will make up or cause the symptoms of illness in their child, perhaps giving them medicine they don't need and making the child unwell – this is known as fabricated or induced illness (FII).

There is no excuse for physically abusing a child. It causes serious, and often long-lasting, harm – and in severe cases, death. Bumps and bruises don't necessarily mean a child is being physically abused – all children have accidents, trips and falls.

There's isn't one sign or symptom to look out for that will say a child is definitely being physically abused. But if a child often has injuries, there seems to be a pattern, or the explanation doesn't match the injury then this should be investigated.

Physical abuse may include signs of – bruising, burns or scalds, bite marks, fracture or broken bones, other injuries and health problems.

Neglect

Neglect is the on-going failure to meet a child's basic needs. A child may be left hungry or dirty, without adequate clothing, shelter, supervision, medical or health care.

A child may be put in danger or not protected from physical or emotional harm. They may not get the love, care and attention they need from their parents.

A child who's neglected will often suffer from other abuse as well.

Neglect is dangerous and can cause serious, long-term damage - even death.

Neglect can have serious and long-lasting effects. It can be anything from leaving a child home alone to the very worst cases where a child dies from malnutrition or being denied the care they need. In some cases it can cause permanent disabilities.

Neglect can be really difficult to identify, making it hard for professionals to take early action to protect a child.

Having one of the signs or symptoms below doesn't necessarily mean that a child is being neglected. But if you notice multiple, or persistent, signs then it could indicate there's a serious problem.

Children who are neglected may have:

- Poor appearance and hygiene, health and development problems, housing and family issues

Emotional Abuse

Emotional abuse is the on-going emotional maltreatment or emotional neglect of a child. It's sometimes called psychological abuse and can seriously damage a child's emotional health and development.

Emotional abuse can involve deliberately trying to scare or humiliate a child or isolating or ignoring them.

Children who are emotionally abused are usually suffering another type of abuse or neglect at the same time – but this isn't always the case.

There often aren't any obvious physical symptoms of emotional abuse or neglect but you may spot signs in a child's actions or emotions.

Changes in emotions are a normal part of growing up, so it can be really difficult to tell if a child is being emotionally abused.

Children may:

- Use language, act in a way or know about things that you wouldn't expect them to know for their age
- Struggle to control strong emotions or have extreme outbursts
- Seem isolated from their parents
- Lack social skills or have few, if any, friends

Sexual Exploitation

Child sexual exploitation (CSE) is a type of sexual abuse in which children are sexually exploited for money, power or status.

Children or young people may be tricked into believing they're in a loving, consensual relationship. They might be invited to parties and given drugs and alcohol. They may also be groomed online.

Some children and young people are trafficked into or within the UK for the purpose of sexual exploitation.

Sexual exploitation can also happen to young people in gangs.

Sexual exploitation can be very difficult to identify. Warning signs can easily be mistaken for 'normal' teenage behaviour.

Young people who are being sexually exploited may:

- Go missing from home, care or education.
- Be involved in abusive relationships, intimidated and fearful of certain people or situations
- Hang out with groups of older people, or antisocial groups, or with other vulnerable peers
- Associate with other young people involved in sexual exploitation
- Get involved in gangs, gang fights, gang membership
- Have older boyfriends or girlfriends
- Spend time at places of concern, such as hotels or known brothels
- Not know where they are, because they have been moved around the country
- Be involved in petty crime such as shoplifting
- Have unexplained physical injuries
- Have a changed physical appearance, for example lost weight.
- They may also show signs of sexual abuse or grooming

Bullying and Cyber-bullying

Bullying is behaviour that hurts someone else – such as name calling, hitting, pushing, spreading rumours, threatening or undermining someone.

It can happen anywhere – at school, at home or online. It's usually repeated over a long period of time and can hurt a child both physically and emotionally.

Bullying that happens online, using social networks and mobile phones, is often called cyber bullying. A child can feel like there's no escape because it can happen wherever they are, at any time of day or night.

It can be hard for adults, including parents, to know whether or not a child is being bullied. A child might not tell anyone because they're scared the bullying will get worse. They might think that they deserve to be bullied, or that it's their fault.

You can't always see the signs of bullying. And no one sign indicates for certain that a child's being bullied. But you should look out for:

- Belongings getting "lost" or damaged
- Physical injuries such as unexplained bruises
- Being afraid to go to school, being mysteriously 'ill' each morning, or skipping school
- Not doing as well at school
- Asking for, or stealing, money (to give to a bully)
- Being nervous, losing confidence, or becoming distressed and withdrawn
- Problems with eating or sleeping
- Bullying others

Radicalisation and Extremism

Radicalisation is a new and emerging risk to young people. Emerging government guidance, particularly the "Prevent Strategy" has been published in 2011 with regular updates (2015). Almost half of all of the people referred to the Government's de-radicalisation scheme, established in the wake of the Prevent Strategy, were under the age of 18.

At all times, the welfare of the child is paramount. We have a moral and legal obligation to ensure that young people are protected from harm.

Partners and their third party deliverers need to ensure they have policies and procedures in place to protect children and young people from exposure to highly radical or extremist views either via social media and the internet or from volunteers, officials, coaches or employees.

Police forces and other statutory bodies are working more closely together than ever on this highly political and sensitive issue and are quick to act when there are concerns about a child's welfare

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Our fully trained PREVENT officer is Gareth Jones (Manager) who is also trained to deliver the PREVENT strategy to Coaches/ staff

For more information about the Prevent Strategy go to

https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/f

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