



# Green Shoots

EDUCATION SUPPORT

## Safeguarding Policy

Updated August 2023

### Purpose and Scope

The purpose of this safeguarding policy is to

- Protect children and young people who receive Green Shoots Education Support's services from harm. This includes the children of adults who use our services.
- To respond to any allegations and/or concerns relating to the welfare of a child or young person who is receiving our services.
- To provide clients and their families with the overarching principles that guide our approach to child protection.

This policy applies to anyone working on behalf of Green Shoots Education Support.

This policy will be reviewed and updated on an annual basis or earlier if there is a change in safeguarding protocols.

### Legal Framework

This policy has been drawn up on the basis of legislation, policy and guidance that seeks to protect children in England. A summary of the key legislation and guidance is available from <https://learning.nspcc.org.uk/child-protection-system>

### We believe that:

- Children and young people should never experience abuse of any kind.
- We have a responsibility to promote the welfare of all children and young people, to keep them safe and to practise in a way that protects them.

### We recognise that:

- The welfare of children is paramount in all the work we do and in all the decisions we take.
- Working in partnership with children, young people, their parents, carers and other agencies is essential in promoting young people's welfare.
- All children, regardless of age, disability, gender reassignment, race, religion or belief, sex, or sexual orientation have an equal right to protection from all types of harm or abuse.
- Some children are additionally vulnerable because of the impact of previous experiences, their level of dependency, communication needs or other issues.
- Extra safeguards may be needed to keep children who are additionally vulnerable safe from abuse.

### We will seek to keep children and young people safe by:

- Valuing, listening to and respecting them.
- Adopting child protection and safeguarding best practice through our policies and procedures.
- Undertaking regular safeguarding training as required.
- Keeping up to date with any new information about safeguarding and child protection and updating this policy accordingly.
- Recording and storing and using information professionally and securely, in line with data protection legislation and guidance. More information about this is available from the information commissioner's office:

<https://ico.org.uk/for-organisations>

- Sharing information about safeguarding and good practice with children and their families.
- Making sure that children, young people and their families know where to go for help if they have a concern.
- Using our safeguarding and child protection procedures to share concerns and relevant information with agencies who need to know, and involving children, young people, parents, families and carers appropriately.
- Using our procedures to manage any allegations appropriately.
- Ensuring that we provide a safe physical environment for our children, young people and families to work in.
- Maintaining a live DBS certificate registered on the Government's update service.

### Reporting any safeguarding concerns

If a child or young person tells us that they or another child is being abused, we will:

- Show that we have heard what they are saying, and that we take their allegations seriously.
- Encourage the child to talk, without prompting them or asking them leading questions. We will not interrupt when a child is recalling significant events and will not make a child repeat their account.
- Reassure the child that they can tell us anything that is worrying them, but that we cannot promise not to tell anybody because some things have to be passed on in order to keep them safe.
- Explain what actions we must take, in a way that is appropriate to the age and understanding of the child.
- Record what we have been told, as soon as we can, using exact words where possible.
- Make a note of the date, time, place and people who were present during the disclosure.
- We will contact the Safeguarding Lead for the relevant Local Authority.
- If we are concerned that the child is in immediate danger, we will call the police.

If we have suspicions of a safeguarding or welfare concern we will contact the Safeguarding Lead for the relevant Local Authority. If we are concerned that the child is in immediate danger, we will call the police.

### Useful Contact Details

Childline 0800 1111

Gloucestershire Children and Families Front Door Service 01452 426565

Gloucestershire Emergency Duty Team 01452 614194

Worcestershire Family Front Door Service 01905 822 666

Worcestershire (and Herefordshire) Emergency Duty team 01905 768020

Herefordshire Multi-agency Safeguarding Hub 01432 260800

Herefordshire (and Worcestershire) Emergency Duty team 01905 768020

Oxfordshire Multi-agency Safeguarding Hub 0345 0507666

Oxfordshire Emergency Duty Team 0800 833408