

Claxby Parish Council

Safeguarding Policy

Policy Statement

In the interests of the welfare and protection of children, young people and vulnerable adults, Claxby Parish Council is committed to ensuring that these groups are protected and kept safe from harm whilst they are engaged in any activity associated with the Parish Council within the parish. Safeguarding is defined as the protection of children, young people and vulnerable adults from maltreatment, preventing impairment of their health and ensuring safe and effective care. Safeguarding children, young people and adults is a collective responsibility.

Aims

The aims of this policy document are:-

1. To guide council members, employees and volunteers working with Claxby Parish Council should any safeguarding issues arise.
2. To work to prevent abuse from occurring.
3. To seek to protect and to respond well to any allegation of abuse.

Policy Objectives

1. To ensure that where possible all facilities and activities offered by the Parish Council are designed and maintained to limit the risk(s) to children, young people and vulnerable adults.
2. To protect the general welfare, health and development of children, young people and vulnerable adults and be able to respond, where appropriate, as a local government organisation.
3. To develop, monitor and update procedures in recording and responding to accidents/incidents and complaints and to alleged or suspected incidents of abuse and neglect.
4. As the Parish Council does not directly provide care or supervision services to children and vulnerable adults, it expects all children, young people and vulnerable adults using its facilities to do so with the consent and the necessary supervision of a parent, carer or other recognised responsible adult.

Responsibilities & Procedures

The role of the Councillor appointed as Safeguarding Lead within the Parish Council will be to:

1. Ensure that before any Parish Council organised event with children, young people or vulnerable adults, they are responsible for briefing all participants appropriately.
2. Ensure that all participants are aware of the risk(s) they may face, in certain circumstances, whilst carrying out their duties.
3. Ensure that whilst Council members are unlikely to be involved with children during the performance of their duties, they are mindful of the risk(s) they may face.

4. All new Councillors, officers and volunteers are to be provided with a copy of the Safeguarding Policy and are required to acknowledge (by signature) that they will abide by it.

5. **All councillors** (when representing the parish council) will adhere to the 'List of Recommended Behaviour' namely:

5.1 A minimum of two adults present when supervising children.

5.2 No physical contact games.

5.3 To wear appropriate clothing at all times.

5.4 Ensure that all accidents/incidents are recorded in the accident/incident book.

5.5 Never to do anything of an intimate nature for a child, young person or vulnerable adult.

5.6 Keep records in the accident/incident book of any allegations made to any committee member or volunteer. The accident/incident book to be available at every Parish Council meeting for inspection.

5.7 If there is an abuse incident or observed behaviour of concern, it must be reported to the Safeguarding Councillor. They will be responsible for ensuring the matter is handled in accordance with the local safeguarding procedures and also referred to the Council for further action as appropriate and future risk assessment. In the event of any potential immediate danger, ring the police on 999.

5.8 Facilities offered by the Parish Council will be inspected on a regular basis and at least annually by a representative of RoSPA or a similar organisation.

5.9 Share information about child protection and good practice with partner organisations, councillors, employees, volunteers, parents and carers.

5.10 In the event of a contractor, working directly for the Parish Council, being deemed to be working in any area where children or vulnerable adults may be at risk, then that contractor will be asked to provide their Safeguarding Policy and may be asked to provide a DBS check.

5.11 Any organisation which may make contact with children, young people or vulnerable adults shall be required to show proof of its own appropriate Safeguarding Policy and DBS check (if necessary) before being allowed to participate in the use of any council owned facilities.

Declaration

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

All Councillors must read and sign the Safeguarding Policy. They will be proactive in providing a safe environment for children and vulnerable people who use Claxby Parish Council facilities and attend Claxby Parish Council events.

This Safeguarding Policy was adopted by the Council at its Meeting held on 16th January 2024.

This Policy will be reviewed annually in September each year.

Date of next review: September 2025