



Policy Name	Safeguarding Children
Version	1.3
Name of originator/ author	Dave Lewis Director of Operations
Review due	June 2027

Safeguarding Children Policy

1. Policy Statement and Objectives

- 1.1 Earth Trust has a duty of care to ensure the safety and protection of children who engage with staff and volunteers acting on behalf of the Trust in the course of its activities. The safeguarding principles apply to Earth Trust's activities at Earth Trust Centre and within the Trust's green spaces, including Earth Trust owned and managed land. To achieve this, we must ensure we work effectively together, promoting best practice and robust procedures for logging and reporting disclosures of abuse or neglect.
- 1.2 Children are defined by law as anyone under the age of 18. Please see full definition at 5.
- 1.3 The policy seeks to ensure that everyone involved with Earth Trust:
 - Understands their responsibility to protect children in all areas of our activities
 - Knows what to do if they are concerned about the welfare of a child or are concerned about the behaviour of others towards a child
 - Knows where to go for advice and support if they are not sure about any aspect of protecting children.

2. Safeguarding Governance

- 2.1 Earth Trust's Board of Trustees is accountable for ensuring that the Trust has appropriate structures, processes, and resources in place to ensure safeguarding is central to all the organisation does, and for monitoring compliance. As part of fulfilling their duties, Trustees must take reasonable steps to protect from harm, people who come into contact with the Trust. This includes:
 - People who benefit from the Trust's work
 - Staff
 - Volunteers
 - Other people who come into contact with the Trust through its activities



2.2 The Board will also appoint a Trustee Safeguarding Lead for the Trust.

2.3 Contact details for safeguarding at Earth Trust

Safeguarding Lead	Dave Lewis: 07506 707766 dave.lewis@earthtrust.org.uk
Deputy Safeguarding Lead	Stuart Ritchie 01865 407792 stuart.ritchie@earthtrust.org.uk
Trustee Safeguarding Lead	Liz Buckle lizbuckle2003@yahoo.co.uk

2.4 The Safeguarding Lead will provide an annual safeguarding report.

3. Who does it apply to?

3.1 This policy applies to anyone who engages with beneficiaries of the Trust and the public for or on behalf of the Trust. It includes:

- All Employees Partners, including freelance staff, suppliers and contractors
- Trustees & other governing groups
- Volunteers

3.2 Everyone has a role to play in safeguarding and Earth Trust expects everyone to take on this responsibility in supporting good safeguarding practices and behaviours.

3.3 Earth Trust expects all its partners to share the same commitment to safeguarding children and expects them to have their own safeguarding policies and procedures in place which meet safeguarding requirements to a safe standard.

3.4 We all have a responsibility to:

- Know and work within this policy framework in order to safeguard children including knowing how to report concerns
- Promote safe practices by being an excellent role model; positively involve people in developing safe practices wherever possible and report any concerns about poor practice swiftly using the mechanisms in this policy
- Encourage open communication by treating all people equally with respect and dignity and share information appropriately with others and within the law

4. Definition of a child

4.1 A child is defined as anyone up to the age of 18. There may be occasions when someone is aged 18 or over but is still receiving children's services (for example a disabled young person



who is in a residential educational setting until aged 25 or a care leaver) and a safeguarding issue is raised. These matters should be dealt with through adult safeguarding arrangements as outlined in the Safeguarding Adults Policy.

5. Definitions of child abuse and neglect

- 5.1 There are four main categories of abuse, but more than one type of abuse may be occurring simultaneously or sequentially. Child abuse is any form of physical, emotional, or sexual mistreatment or lack of care that leads to injury or harm. It commonly occurs within a relationship of trust or responsibility and is an abuse of power or breach of trust. Abuse can happen to a child or young person regardless of their age, gender, race, or ability.
- 5.2 These are:
- Physical abuse
 - Emotional abuse
 - Sexual abuse
 - Neglect
- 5.3 There is a detailed description of each type of abuse in Appendix 1. The abuser may be a family member, a teacher, someone the child encounters in residential care, or in the community, including sports and leisure activities. Any individual may abuse or neglect a child or young person directly or may be responsible for abuse because they fail to prevent another person harming them or may not pass on information which could prevent or stop the abuse. Abuse in all its forms can affect a child at any age. Signs and Indicators of abuse are described in detail in Appendix 2.

6. Examples of where Earth Trust may come into contact with children at risk of abuse

- 6.1 The examples below illustrate how we may come into contact with a child or children at risk of abuse when working or volunteering with the Trust. This list is not exhaustive: Educational session
- 6.2 We may be concerned about the presentation or behaviour of a child attending as part of a school group e.g. a child that regularly visits as part of a school group is displaying some aggressive behaviour towards another child and the schoolteachers are not taking any action to prevent this. Unsolicited/solicited contact

We may be contacted directly by a child via email/social media/other digital means or other forms of communication, in response to the content of one of our offers or campaigns. E.g. a child reaching out to us and sharing concerns about their wellbeing.

- 6.3 Public programme event

We may be concerned about a child that attends part of our public programme e.g. we witness a parent smacking a child at one of our events.



7. Safeguarding and Child Protection

- 7.1 Safeguarding is the action that is taken to promote the welfare of children and protect them from harm.
- 7.2 Safeguarding means:
- protecting children from abuse and maltreatment
 - preventing harm to children's health or development
 - ensuring children grow up with the provision of safe and effective care
 - taking action to enable all children and young people to have the best outcomes
- 7.3 Child protection is part of the safeguarding process. It focuses on protecting individual children identified as suffering or likely to suffer significant harm. This includes child protection procedures which detail how to respond to concerns about a child, such as making a referral to the Police and/or Children Services.

8. Allegations of non-recent abuse

- 8.1 It can take many years for survivors of abuse to come forward for many different reasons; shame, fear of not being believed, difficulty in communicating or expressing the abuse. However, the alleged perpetrator may still remain a risk to others and so all non-recent allegations must be examined.
- 8.2 Regardless of the length of time that has occurred since the abuse took place, whether involving anyone from the Trust or outside of it such as partnerships/those working on behalf of the Trust should still be taken seriously and acted upon in line with the Trust's safeguarding policies and procedures. The Safeguarding Lead and deputy Safeguarding Lead will work in partnership with the police or local authorities in such cases.

Safeguarding Children Procedures

9. What should you do if you are concerned that a child might be at risk of harm?

If there is no immediate danger, you must complete a Safeguarding Issue Reporting Form as soon as possible, the record will be kept confidential and the information will only be viewable by the referrer, the Safeguarding Lead and the Deputy Safeguarding Lead.

Where a concern relates to an adult working or volunteering with children, the Safeguarding Lead will consider whether the Local Authority Designated Officer should be contacted.

If the child is in immediate danger or requires medical attention, you must contact the police or ambulance services on 999 or seek immediate medical attention. Once you



have done that, you must complete a Safeguarding Issue Reporting Form as soon as possible, the record will be kept confidential and the information will only be viewable by the referrer, the Safeguarding Lead and the Deputy Safeguarding Lead.

10. If you get told directly by a child about abuse or neglect

- 10.1 If a child discloses information to you about their own, or someone else's, experience of abuse or neglect it is important that you tell them that you cannot keep this confidential and that you have a duty to report this to protect them or others. This may be a disclosure of recent or non-recent abuse.
- 10.2 Staff and volunteers must not promise confidentiality. They should explain, in an age-appropriate way, that information may need to be shared with the Safeguarding Lead and other relevant agencies to help keep the child or others safe.
- 10.3 It is important that you:
- remain calm and do not show shock or disbelief
 - show support and compassion
 - listen carefully to what is being said
 - do not ask detailed, probing or leading questions
 - tell them that you take what they are saying seriously
 - tell them what you are going to do next and that you will only tell people who you think need to know
 - make a full and written record of what has been said/heard as soon as possible after the disclosure has ended
 - share this information with the Safeguarding Lead and Deputy Safeguarding Lead as outlined above

11. Lost child procedure

- 11.1 All Trust public events involving children must comply with the Lost Child Procedure, as tailored to the needs of the event. The Trust Event Manager on each event day must make themselves familiar with the procedure and brief all those involved (Staff, Volunteers and External Providers) on the event day. Please refer to a template procedure in Appendix 3.
- 11.2 Wherever possible, no adult should be alone with a lost child. Two adults should remain present unless this is not possible in an emergency.
- 11.3 Any lost child incident should be recorded and reviewed afterwards to identify learning for future events.



12. What to do if you are concerned about safeguarding practices?

Concerns about an adult working for, associated with or volunteering with Earth Trust and their contact with children

- 12.1 If you have concerns about the behaviour of a person - who is working/volunteering for, or representing, the Trust - towards a child, you must share the information as soon as possible with the Safeguarding Lead and the Deputy Safeguarding Lead.
- 12.2 You may be concerned that someone working or volunteering for or on behalf of the Trust:
- is behaving, or has behaved, in such a way that a child has been harmed or may be harmed
 - may possibly have committed a criminal offence against a child
 - has behaved towards a child in a way that makes you think they may pose a risk of harm to others – including other children
 - behaves in a way that compromises the reputation and ability of the Trust to safeguard children
- 12.3 Examples of such behaviour (not exhaustive) could be:
- contravening or continuing to contravene any safe practice guidance for working with children
 - exploiting or abusing a position of trust and/or power
 - consistently demonstrating a failure to understand or appreciate how their own actions could adversely impact upon the safety and wellbeing of children
 - exhibiting an inability to make sound professional judgements which safeguard the welfare of children
 - failing to understand or recognise the need for clear personal and professional boundaries in their work; or behaving in such a way that it seriously undermines the trust and confidence placed in them by the Trust

At an event

- 12.4 If witnessing a potential safeguarding concern at an event, the following process should be followed:
- 12.5 In the first instance establish if the child is at immediate risk of harm; if so act immediately by calling 999. Follow this up by updating the lead event organiser and then the Safeguarding Lead or Deputy Safeguarding Lead.
- 12.6 If the child is not at immediate risk of harm, contact the lead event organiser and discuss your concerns then share the information with the Safeguarding Lead and Deputy Safeguarding Lead as soon as possible following the procedure outlined in the section above.

Safeguarding online

- 12.7 If you have any online safeguarding concerns these should be referred to the Safeguarding Lead and Deputy Safeguarding Lead. Online safeguarding concerns may include grooming, exploitation, cyberbullying, harassment, sexual images, self-harm content, suicide-related



content, extremist content, impersonation, AI-generated or manipulated images, deepfake content, and technology-enabled abuse.

12.8 If you believe a child to be in immediate danger from online abuse, for example:

- a child coerced to meet with someone they do not know in person
- a child whereabouts is unknown/missing

take immediate action by contacting the emergency services on 999 and inform the Safeguarding Lead and Deputy Safeguarding Lead as soon as possible following the procedure outlined in the section above.

What will the Safeguarding Lead and Deputy Safeguarding Lead do

12.9 Once you have shared your concern with the Safeguarding Lead and Deputy Safeguarding Lead, they will then decide the next course of action and they will be responsible for taking any actions forward. The principle of this is that early sharing of information is the key to providing an effective response where there are emerging concerns.

12.10 A course of action may include:

- In the case of a school or other educational establishment, the Safeguarding Lead and Deputy Safeguarding Lead may liaise with the relevant person within the establishment (e.g. teacher, headteacher or school Designated Safeguarding Lead) to ensure appropriate action is taken
- a discussion with the child's legal parent/guardian/carer
- a referral to a statutory agency such as the police, local authority children's services or the Local Authority Designated Officer
- advice may be sought from a statutory agency regarding next steps

13. Whistleblowing

13.1 Safeguarding concerns or allegations that relate to the way the Trust manages their safeguarding duties at an organisational level can also be reported via the Earth Trust Whistleblowing policy.

14. Safe Recruitment

14.1 Building a culture of safeguarding depends on our ability to encourage a commitment to safeguarding amongst all those who join the organisation. This process begins at recruitment.

14.2 We demonstrate our commitment to safeguarding by:

- Assessing each role to determine the appropriate level of DBS check, including whether the role involves regulated activity with children and/or adults at risk.
- Ensuring all Recruiting Managers have received training on safer recruitment
- Including a statement about our commitment to safeguarding in all job adverts



- Including specific safeguarding questions in interviews for roles which have direct contact with children and adults in communities
- Completing appropriate criminal record checks and requesting two references on all staff and volunteers
- Safeguarding training is a compulsory part of the induction process for all new starters. Refresher training is provided at intervals appropriate to the role.
- Incorporating compliance with safeguarding in all employment and volunteering agreements

15. Safeguarding Due Diligence with external partners

- 15.1 Earth Trust is committed to entering in partnerships and relationships with safe organisations. This means that we take all appropriate steps to ensure that organisations that undertake a service on our behalf, who enter in partnership with us, or who utilise our brand, have adequate measures in place to prevent harm and to respond effectively if safeguarding issues do arise.
- 15.2 We will ensure this by undertaking safeguarding due diligence before entering in any contractual or other relationship with third parties. Please contact the Safeguarding Lead and Deputy Safeguarding Lead for advice in this respect.

16. Referrals to the Charity Commission

- 16.1 The Charity Commission will need to be informed of any suspicions, allegations and incidents of abuse or mistreatment that fall under the definition of Serious Incident.
- 16.2 A Serious Incident is defined by the Charity Commission as
- 'an adverse event, whether actual or alleged, which results in or risks significant:
- harm to your charity's beneficiaries, staff, volunteers or others who come into contact with your charity through its work (who are collectively referred to throughout this guidance as people who come into contact with your charity through its work)
 - loss of your charity's money or asset
 - damage to your charity's property
 - harm to your charity's work or reputation
- "significant" means significant in the context of your charity, taking account of its staff, operations, finances and/or reputation.'
- 16.3 Any safeguarding incident that meets the following criteria must be escalated as a Serious Incident.
- 16.4 Examples in a safeguarding context can be found below (the list is not exhaustive):
- A member of staff/volunteer is involved in a Police investigation due to a safeguarding concern



- Serious harm to a child during an event resulting from an act or omission of a member of staff or volunteer
- Death of a child resulting from an act or omission of a member of staff or volunteer

16.5 If you know or suspect that a Serious Incident may have occurred, please contact the Safeguarding Lead or Deputy Safeguarding Lead as soon as possible to share this information.

16.6 The Safeguarding Lead or Deputy Safeguarding Lead will review the matter and escalate it to the CEO, with a recommendation as to whether it needs reporting to the Board of Trustees, and clarity on whether any further steps need to be taken internally.

17. Referrals to the Disclosure and Barring Service

17.1 If a safeguarding allegation is raised against a member of staff or volunteer of the Trust, relating to actions towards a child, consideration will be given as to whether they are able or allowed to continue in this role depending on the outcome or any enquiries. If it is concluded that the individual should no longer be engaged in activity with children, then the Safeguarding Lead and Deputy Safeguarding Lead will refer this individual to the Disclosure and Barring Service for consideration to bar the person from working with children or adults at risk.

17.2 Where a person is removed from regulated activity because they have harmed, or may pose a risk of harm to, a child or adult at risk, Earth Trust will make a referral to the Disclosure and Barring Service where legally required.

Retention and Storage of Safeguarding Information

18. Recording of information

18.1 It is essential that the Trust maintains clear and comprehensive records of any concerns or allegations of actual or suspected abuse, which should detail the actions that were taken, discussions, and the outcomes.

18.2 The importance of ensuring that accurate, up to date and clear records are:

- To prevent an unnecessary re-investigation if an allegation or concern resurfaces in the future.
- Provide clarity in a situation where a future criminal records check reveals information from a police investigation that an allegation was made against a person, but did not result in a prosecution or conviction.
- To provide information to statutory services in the event of a statutory safeguarding review, case conference or court proceedings.
- To be able to provide accurate information in response for any future request for a reference for a member of staff or volunteer.
- To provide information and evidence should a decision be made to refer a person for consideration to be barred from working with children or young people.
- To support the Trust with best standard practices for their policies and procedures.



19. Best practice rules when recording safeguarding information

- Recording should always be objective
- The records must reflect the language that is used by the person making the allegation or raising a concern. It should not be altered or amended in anyway
- Recording of a safeguarding concern or allegation should be made within 24 hours of receiving the information

20. Retention rules concerning safeguarding concerns or allegations

- 20.1 Best practice requires that concerns or allegations that have been raised relating to a child should be kept for 25 years. This applies to staff and volunteers.
- 20.2 Safeguarding records will be retained in line with Earth Trust's data retention schedule, legal obligations and safeguarding best practice.



Appendix I: Types of child abuse and neglect

Physical abuse is a form of abuse which may involve hitting, shaking, throwing, poisoning, burning or scalding, drowning, suffocating, or otherwise causing physical harm to a child. Physical harm may also be caused when a parent or carer fabricates the symptoms of, or deliberately induces, illness in a child. Giving young people alcohol or inappropriate drugs would also constitute child abuse. In a sports situation, physical abuse may occur when the nature and intensity of the training disregard the capacity of a young child's immature and growing body which could cause injuries.

Emotional Abuse is the persistent emotional maltreatment of a child such as to cause severe and persistent adverse effects on the child's emotional development. It may involve conveying to children that they are worthless or unloved, inadequate, or valued only insofar as they meet the needs of another person. It may include not giving the child opportunities to express their views, deliberately silencing them or 'making fun' of what they say or how they communicate. It may feature age or developmentally inappropriate expectations being imposed on children. These may include interactions that are beyond the child's developmental capability, as well as overprotection and limitation of exploration and learning, or preventing the child participating in normal social interaction. It may involve seeing or hearing the ill-treatment of another. It may involve serious bullying (including cyber bullying), causing children frequently to feel frightened or in danger, or the exploitation or corruption of children.

Sexual Abuse involve forcing or enticing a child or young person to take part in sexual activities, not necessarily involving a high level of violence, whether or not the child is aware of what is happening. The activities may involve physical contact, including assault by penetration (for example, rape or oral sex) or non-penetrative acts such as masturbation, kissing, rubbing and touching outside of clothing. They may also include non-contact activities, such as involving children in looking at, or in the production of, sexual images, watching sexual activities, encouraging children to behave in sexually inappropriate ways, or grooming a child in preparation for abuse (including via the internet). Sexual abuse can take place online, and technology can be used to facilitate offline abuse. Sexual abuse is not solely perpetrated by adult males. Women can also commit acts of sexual abuse, as can other children.

Neglect is the persistent failure to meet a child's basic physical and/or psychological needs, likely to result in the serious impairment of the child's health or development. Neglect may occur during pregnancy as a result of maternal substance abuse. Once a child is born, neglect may involve a parent or carer failing to:

- provide adequate food, clothing and shelter (including exclusion from home or abandonment)
- protect a child from physical and emotional harm or danger;
- ensure adequate supervision (including the use of inadequate caregivers); or
- ensure access to appropriate medical care or treatment. It may also include neglect of, or unresponsiveness to, a child's basic emotional needs.



Bullying has no legal definition, but it is usually understood as repeated physically or/and emotionally hurtful behaviour. It can take many forms, including:

- Physical bullying; it involves hitting, kicking and other types of physical harm including destruction of one's possessions
- Verbal bullying; it encompasses name-calling, teasing, intimidating and spreading hurtful rumours
- Cyber-bullying; it involves sending harassing, threatening and humiliating text messages, emails, posts, blogs, etc. as well as spreading hurtful rumours via the Internet and calling on the phone at inappropriate hours.

The consequences of bullying can cause serious emotional distress which often leads to anxiety, fear, low self-esteem, feelings of worthlessness and depression. Children who are bullied are often also afraid to go to school and make up health problems to stay at home. Many, however, develop actual health problems due to the stress such as frequent headaches and stomach aches, and decline in school performance.

Peer-on-peer abuse can also be known as child-on-child abuse. It is when a child places harm or abuse on another child. This can be a very difficult form of abuse to address because the abuse is harmful to both the perpetrator (the child committing the abuse) and the victim (the child being abused).

Online abuse

Children and young people can be at risk of online abuse from people they know as well as from strangers and online abuse may be part of abuse that is taking place in the real world e.g. bullying. The distress that a child/young person may feel through this type of abuse can be long lasting as they can feel there is no escape from online abuse, as it invades their safe space e.g. bedrooms and abusers can contact them at any time of day or night. Social media can be used as a means of contacting young people with a view to grooming them for inappropriate or abusive relationships.

Further information and guidance can be found through NSPCC, CEOP, Internet Watch Foundation and the UK Safer Internet Centre.

Self-harm

Whilst this is not a form of child abuse, self-harm should be taken seriously and reported to like any other form of abuse. Self-harm is when a young person intentionally damages or injures their body and is usually a way of coping with or expressing overwhelming emotional distress. Often, the physical pain of self-harm may feel easier to deal with than the emotional pain that is behind this. It can also enable a young person to feel that they are in control of at least one part of their lives. Young people often try to keep self-harm a secret because of shame or fear of discovery.

Female genital mutilation (FGM) is also known as 'female genital cutting' or 'female circumcision'. FGM has significant physical and mental health consequences as a result of this. It is a practice which should not be excused, condoned or accepted. FGM is an extremely harmful practice that violates basic human rights and girls are at particular risk of FGM during the school holidays. This is the time when families may be taking their



child/young person abroad for the procedure and the girl may not be aware that this is the reason they are going.

Domestic violence

Children and young people who live in families where they are exposed to domestic violence or abuse have been shown to be at risk of emotional, physical, behavioural and long-term developmental problems. Any pattern of incidents such as controlling behaviour which is a range of acts designed to make a young person subordinate or dependent by isolating them from sources of support, exploiting their resources and capacities for personal gain. This behaviour can deprive them of independence, resistance, escape and regulates their everyday behaviour. Coercive behaviour is an act or pattern of acts of assault, threats, humiliation and intimidation or other abuse which is used to frighten, harm or punish their victim.

Forced marriage

This is where a marriage is conducted without the full consent of both parties and where duress is a factor. In the case of some adults with learning disabilities or mental incapacity they may not be able to consent to the marriage. It can happen in secret and may be planned by parents, family or religious leaders, it can also involve a range of abuse including coercion. This is completely different from an arranged or assisted marriage where the families take a role in choosing and introducing the marriage partners, but the marriage is entered into freely by both people without pressure.

Modern slavery

Child trafficking is a form of abuse where children are recruited, moved or transported and then exploited e.g. for the purpose of sexual exploitation or domestic servitude. They are often subject to multiple forms of abuse. Children may be trafficked into the UK from abroad, but they can also be trafficked from one part of the UK to another.

Child criminal exploitation is where an individual or group takes advantage of an imbalance of power to coerce, manipulate or deceive a child or young person under the age of 18 years into any criminal activity. The victim may have been criminally exploited, even if the activity appears consensual. Child Criminal Exploitation does not always involve physical contact, it can also occur through the use of technology. (Home Office definition).

County Lines is where illegal drugs are transported from one area to another, often across police and local authority boundaries (although not exclusively), usually by children or vulnerable people who are coerced into it by gangs. The 'County Line' is the mobile phone line used to take the orders of drugs. Importing areas (areas where the drugs are taken to) are reporting increased levels of violence and weapons-related crimes as a result of this trend. (National Crime Agency definition).

Debt bondage is when children, where they are tricked into working for little or no money to repay a debt.

Child Sexual Exploitation is a form of child sexual abuse. It occurs where an individual or group takes advantage of an imbalance of power to coerce, manipulate or deceive a child or young person under the age of 18 into sexual activity (a) in exchange for something the



victim needs or wants, and/or (b) for financial advantage or increased status of the perpetrator or facilitator. The victim may have been sexually exploited even if the sexual activity appears consensual. Child sexual exploitation does not always involve physical contact; it can also occur through the use of technology. In some activities such as physical sports these can create opportunities where the contact leads to sexual abuse and could go unnoticed

Grooming is when a person builds an emotional connection with a child/young person with the intention of sexual abuse, sexual exploitation or trafficking. It involves making a child/young person feel comfortable through a variety of different methods thus developing trust, before initiating physical contact and abusing that trust. An offender is likely to look to groom the adults as well as the child/young person to gain that trust. This process can happen within a family, an organisation or online. They could be groomed by someone they know or a stranger and groomers can be any age or gender. A person who sexually abuses children/young people are very skilled at gaining the confidence of a child/young person or parent and look for opportunities where they can have unsupervised access to that child/young person.

Some of the signs that an individual may be grooming a child or young person are listed:

- Inappropriately dressed about the child/young person
- Gives special attention to a particular child/young person
- Isolating a child/young person from other people
- Touching, hugging, tickling, wrestling with a child/young person
- Giving gifts e.g. cigarettes, alcohol or drugs or money with no explanation or reason
- Creating opportunities to be alone with a child/young person where no other adults are around e.g. offering to give a child a lift or special trip
- Discussing their own sexual experiences and encouraging a child/young person to share their feelings or sexual experiences
- Sharing and viewing abusive images of children/young people
- Not adhering or respecting the code of conduct or behaviours of good practice in the Trust, especially where there are different programmes being offered to children/young people

Radicalisation and Prevent

The main aim of Prevent is to stop people from becoming terrorists or supporting terrorism. At the heart of Prevent is safeguarding children and adults and providing early intervention to protect and divert people away from being drawn into terrorist activity.



Appendix II: Signs and indicators of abuse and neglect

Some of these characteristics listed in this may be indicators of abuse or neglect and there may be more than one sign or indicator. It is not always easy to recognise a situation where abuse may occur or has already taken place.

Some of the following signs might be indicators of abuse or neglect:

- Children/young people whose behaviour changes – they may become aggressive, challenging, disruptive, withdrawn or clingy, or they might have difficulty sleeping or start wetting the bed;
- Children/young people with clothes which are ill-fitting and/or dirty or with consistently poor hygiene;
- Children/young people who make strong efforts to avoid specific family members or friends, without an obvious reason;
- Children/young people who talk about being left home alone, with inappropriate carers or with strangers;
- Children who reach developmental milestones, such as learning to speak or walk, late, with no medical reason, or disability;
- Children/young people who are regularly missing from school or education or who are reluctant to go home after school or an activity at the Trust;
- Parents who are dismissive and non-responsive to professionals' concerns;
- Parents who collect their children/young person from activities when inebriated, or under the influence of drugs;
- Children/young people who drink alcohol regularly or abuse substances from an early age;
- Children/young people who are concerned for younger siblings without explaining why;
- Children/young people who talk about running away or have run away before;
- Children/young people who shy away from being touched or flinch at sudden movements



Appendix III: Lost child/ren procedure

Before the start of the event the Earth Trust Event Manager will hold a briefing session for all those involved (Staff, Volunteers and External Providers). The session will cover the following:

- What to do if approached by a parent/guardian that has lost a child/ren
- What to do if approached by a lost child; where to take the lost child/ren to be reunited with their parent/carer
- What information will be needed so that the child/ren can be safely reunited with their parent/guardian.
- How announcements will be made.
- No food or drink, except water, should be given to the child, in case of allergies.
- If a child is not reunited with their parent after thirty minutes the Event Manager for the day will contact the police.

If a parent/guardian comes to you having lost a child/ren

- If you are a volunteer or external provider get an Earth Trust member of staff to join you immediately
- Contact the Event Manager immediately
- The Event Manager will collect details of the missing child/ren, including name, age, gender, clothing and where they were last seen to complete the Lost Child Record Form.
- The Event Manager will then pass on the description of the child/ren to staff. The Event Manager will ask staff and volunteers to start looking for the child/ren in their areas – all searches must be done in pairs, prioritising areas where the child/ren was/were last seen.
- Once areas have been searched staff and volunteers must report back to the Event Manager as soon as possible.
- The Event Manager will liaise with staff, volunteers and parent/guardian regarding closing the site and calling the police if the child/ren is/are not found within thirty minutes and provide police with relevant information.

If a lost child/children come/s to you and cannot locate their parent/guardian

- If you are a volunteer or external provider get an Earth Trust member of staff to join you immediately. A child/children should be supervised by a pair of adults at all times until they are reunited with their parent/guardian.
- Contact the Event Manager immediately
- The Event Manager will call the parent/guardian's number (if the child has a copy of it) and inform the parent/guardian of the child's location.
- If the parent/guardian is not located within thirty minutes then the Event Manager will contact the police.



Reuniting parent/guardian and child/ren

- The Event Manager will be responsible for reuniting parent/guardian and child/ren. If the child/ren has not been described correctly, or if you are uncertain in any way, do not reunite them or allow the person to take the child away – contact your Safeguarding Lead or Designated Safeguarding Lead via telephone immediately for advice.
- When the parent/guardian and child are successfully reunited ask the parent/guardian to sign the Lost Child Record Form.
- In the event that we are not able to find the child within thirty minutes, the Event Manager will contact the police.



Appendix IV: Legal Framework

This policy has been written based on law and guidance that seeks to protect children.

The legislation below is applicable to England:

- Children Act 1989
- Working together to safeguard children: a guide to inter-agency working to safeguard and promote the welfare of children; HM Government 2018
- United Convention of the Rights of the Child 1991
- Human Rights Act 1998
- Sexual Offences Act 2003
- Children Act 2004
- Working Together under the Children Act 2004 (Wales)
- Social Services and Well-being (Wales) Act 2014
- Cooperating to Safeguard Children and Young People (Northern Ireland)
- Safeguarding Board (Northern Ireland) Act 2011
- Safeguarding Vulnerable Groups Act 2006
- Information Sharing: Advice for practitioners providing safeguarding services to children, young people, parents and carers; HM Government 2015