

Finstock Village Hall: Safeguarding Policy



Finstock Village Hall intends to create an environment in which children and vulnerable adults are safe from abuse and in which any suspicion of abuse is promptly and appropriately responded to. Whilst the Village Hall Trustees do not normally run any children's club or activity, and do not normally have unaccompanied contact with children under the auspices of the Village Hall, they will comply with this policy where applicable and require that every hirer whose hire involves children or vulnerable adults has a policy that complies with current legislation and the requirements set out below. Any staff employed by the Trustees shall comply with this policy.

In order to achieve a safe environment for children and vulnerable adults the Trustees will:

1. Ensure all relevant hirers have a Safeguarding Policy

The Trustees require all hirers working with children or vulnerable adults on a regular basis to have an approved child protection policy. This must include appropriate provisions to ensure that:

- good safeguarding working practices are applied
- known abusers are excluded
- appropriate training is provided for paid staff and volunteers
- suspicions of abuse are reported and followed up appropriately and promptly
- appropriate records are maintained

Occasional hirers, e.g. for children's parties, do not require their own approved policy but will need to observe the requirements of this policy.

2. Ensure all relevant people have a current Disclosure and Barring Service check

The Trustees require that anyone who has unaccompanied contact with children or vulnerable adults at the Village Hall, other than a parent / carer, shall hold a current DBS check.

3. Respond appropriately to suspicions of abuse

Where abuse is suspected, depending on the circumstances parents / carers shall normally be the first point of reference, though suspicions will also be referred where appropriate to:

- If a child or vulnerable person is in immediate danger, call the police on 999
- Oxfordshire Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub: 0845 050 7666
- Outside office hours: Emergency Duty Team: 0800 833 408

Whenever a parent or carer is suspected of being involved in abuse, Oxfordshire Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub will be the first point of reference. All suspicions and investigations will be kept confidential and shared only with those who need to know. Confidential records will be kept of the allegation and of all subsequent proceedings.

4. Appoint a Committee member responsible for Child Protection

The Finstock Village Hall Trustee responsible for Child Protection matters is Mrs Caroline Booth.

Reviewed and approved by the Trustees on 19 January 2016. Next review due January 2017.

Chair of Trustees
16 January 2016