

Mile End Climbing Wall

Safeguarding Children Policy

It is the responsibility of all those working with children to safeguard and promote their welfare and protect them from significant harm



Safeguarding Policy

This policy applies to all staff, including senior managers and the board of trustees, paid staff, sessional workers, volunteers, agency staff, students, contractors or anyone working on behalf of Mile End Climbing Wall (Development Through Challenge).

The purpose of this policy:

- to protect children and young people who receive Mile End Climbing Wall's services:
- to provide staff and volunteers with the overarching principles that guide our approach to safeguarding and child protection

Mile End Climbing Wall (MECW) believes that a child or young person should never experience abuse of any kind. We have a responsibility to promote the welfare of all children and young people and to keep them safe. We are committed to practice in a way that protects them.

MECW has a duty of care to safeguard all children and vulnerable adults aged 7+ involved in activities from harm, other than those conducive with the pursuance of the activities we provide:

- instructor/coach led indoor climbing and paddlesport sessions (group and private)
- competitions and events
- individual participation in the sport where age and ability allows
- trips (residential and non-residential) as well as courses operating off-site that are accessible for both children and adults alike.

Comprehensive risk assessments are carried out for all activities

Breaches of this policy or procedures by any MECW staff, or managers will be dealt with according to the relevant MECW disciplinary policies.

Breaches of this policy or procedured by any freelance instructor will be dealt with according to the MECW instructor agreement.

Legal framework

This policy has been drawn up on the basis of law and guidance that seeks to protect children, namely:

- Children Act 1989
- United Convention of the Rights of the Child 1991
- Data Protection Act 1998
- Human Rights Act 1998
- Sexual Offences Act 2003
- Children Act 2004
- Safeguarding Vulnerable Groups Act 2006
- Protection of Freedoms Act 2012
- Children and Families Act 2014
- Special educational needs and disability (SEND) code of practice; 0-25 years - Statutory guidance for organisations which work with and support children and young people who have special educational needs or disabilities: HM Government 2014
- Information sharing: Advice for practitioners providing safeguarding services to children, young people, parents and carers: HM Government 2015
- Working together to safeguarding children: a guide to inter-agency working to safeguard and promote the welfare of children: HM Government 2015

This policy should be read alongside our policies and procedures on:

- Recruitment, induction and training
- Role of the designated safeguarding officer
- Dealing with disclosures and concerns about a child or young person
- Managing allegations against staff and volunteers
- Recording and information sharing
- Code of conduct for staff and volunteers
- Safer recruitment
- E-safety
- Anti-bullying
- Whistleblowing
- Health and safety
- Training, supervision and support
- Lone working policy and procedure

We recognise that:

- the welfare of the child is paramount, as enshrined in the Children Act 1989
- all children, regardless of age, disability, gender, racial heritage, religious belief, sexual orientation or identity, have a right to equal 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
- working in partnership with children, young people, their parents, carers and other agencies is essential in promoting young peoples welfare.

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

- valuing them, listening to and respecting them
- appointing a Designated Safeguarding Officer (DSO) for children and young people, a deputy and a Lead Trustee for Safeguarding
- adopting child protection and safeguarding practices through procedures and a code of conduct for staff and volunteers
- developing and implementing an effective e-safety policy and other related procedures
- providing effective management for staff and volunteers through supervision, support and training
- recruiting staff and volunteers safely, ensuring all necessary checks are made
- recording and storing information professionally and securely, and sharing information about safeguarding and good practice with children, their families and staff at MECW
- using our safeguarding 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 against staff and volunteers appropriately
- creating and maintaining an anti-bullying environment and ensuring that we have a policy and procedure to help us deal effectively with any bullying that does arise
- ensuring that we have effective whistleblowing measures in place
- ensuring that we provide a safe physical environment (bearing in mind any risks conducive with the pursuance of the activities we provide) for our children, young people, staff and volunteers, by applying health and safety measures in accordance with the law and regulatory guidance
- regular reviews and updates of all related policies and procedures

contact details:

Designated Safeguarding Officer
email
phone

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020 89800289

Deputy Designated Safeguarding Officer:
email
phone

Martha Cross
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020 89800289

Lead Trustee for Safeguarding

Brenda Taggart

CEOP

www.ceop.police.uk

NSPCC Helpline

0808 8005000

Mile End Climbing Wall are committed to reviewing our safeguarding policy and good practice annually.