

ORIGINAL WILD

Child Protection Policy

ORIGINAL WILD fully recognises its responsibilities for child protection. Our policy applies to all staff and volunteers working in the Service. There are five main elements to our policy:

- Ensuring we practice safe recruitment in checking the suitability of staff by before starting employment.
- Raising awareness of child protection issues and equipping young people with the skills needed to keep them safe.
- Developing and then implementing procedures for identifying and reporting cases, or suspected cases, of abuse.
- Supporting pupils who have been abused in accordance with their agreed child protection plan.
- Establishing a safe environment in which young people can learn and develop.

We recognise that because of the day to day contact with young people, instructors are well placed to observe the outward signs of abuse.

The Service will therefore:

- Establish and maintain an environment where young people feel secure, are encouraged to talk, and are listened to.
- Ensure young people know that there are adults who they can approach if they are worried.
- Include opportunities across the curriculum for young people to develop the skills they need to recognise and stay safe from abuse.

We will follow the procedures set out by the Local Safeguarding Children Board and take account of guidance issued by the Department for Children Schools and Families to:

- Ensure during recruitment every member of staff and volunteer has completed two reference checks and a current DBS check prior to starting work with ORIGINAL WILD. This will be kept on file for the remainder of employment.
- Ensure all staff, volunteers, and Management Committee members receive appropriate induction and training, in order to understand their responsibilities in being alert to the signs of abuse and responsibility for referring any concerns to the designated teacher responsible for child protection.
- Ensure that parents/carers have an understanding of the responsibility placed on the Service and staff for child protection by setting out its obligations in the information pack provided for parents/carers.

- Notify social care locality team if there is an unexplained absence of more than two days of a pupil who is on the child protection register.
- Develop effective links with relevant agencies and co-operate as required with their enquiries regarding child protection matters including attendance at case conferences.
- Keep written records of concerns about young people, even where there is no need to refer the matter immediately.
- Ensure all records are kept securely, separate from the main pupil file, and in locked locations.
- Follow local procedures where an allegation is made against a member of staff or volunteer.
- Ensure safe recruitment practices are always followed.
- Carry out an annual child protection audit, to be reviewed mid-year.

We recognise that young people who are abused or witness violence may find it difficult to develop a sense of self worth.

They may feel helplessness, humiliation and some sense of blame.

The ORIGINAL WILD centre may be the only stable, secure and predictable element in the lives of young people at risk. When at the centre their behavior may be challenging and defiant or they may be withdrawn.

The Service will endeavor to support the pupil through:

- The content of the curriculum.
- The ethos of ORIGINAL WILD which promotes a positive, supportive and secure environment and gives pupils a sense of being valued.
- Liaison with other agencies that support the pupil such as social services, Child and Adolescent Mental Health Service, education welfare service and educational psychology service.
- Ensuring that, where a pupil who is subject to a child protection plan leaves the Service, their information is transferred to the new school immediately and the young persons social worker is informed.

This policy will be reviewed annually.

Date policy last review: September 2019

Date of next review: September 2020

Signed: K. Worgan
Director

