

Hurst Water Meadow Trust

Child Protection Policy

The Trustees of the Hurst Water Meadow Trust (HWMT) are committed to a practice which endeavours to safeguard children from all forms of harm.

The Trustees recognise their responsibilities to develop awareness of issues which may cause children harm, including physical, emotional, and sexual harm.

We have identified five areas where children may come in to contact with the HWMT:

- visiting the meadows
- using the web site
- taking part in a volunteer working party
- attending a school visit hosted by the Trust
- fishing on the meadow

We will endeavour to safeguard children by –

- Adopting child protection guidelines through a code of behaviour for Trustees and volunteers
- Sharing information about child protection and good practice with children, parents, staff and volunteers
- Sharing information about concerns with agencies who need to know, and involving parents and children appropriately
- Following carefully the procedures for recruitment and selection of Trustees, staff and volunteers
- Being committed to reviewing our policy and good practice at regular intervals

Statement of Intent

The HWMT will

- *regularly review and act upon health and safety issues that concern the meadows*
- *ensure that the content of its web site is suitable for children*
- *not allow children to take part in volunteer working parties unless accompanied by a parent or carer.*
- *not allow children on educational group visits unless their teacher or school representative is present*
- *not contact children fishing unless another adult is present*

Code of behaviour

One-to-one contact

Trustees and volunteers should

- Not spend time alone with children, away from others

- In the unlikely event of having to meet with an individual child or young person make every effort to keep this meeting as open as possible

Physical contact

Trustees and volunteers should never

- Engage in sexually provocative or rough physical games, including horseplay
- Do things of a personal nature for a child or a young person that they can do for themselves.
- Allow, or engage in, inappropriate touching of any kind

General

Trustees and volunteers should

- Be aware that someone might misinterpret their actions no matter how well intentioned
- Never draw any conclusions about others without checking the facts
- Never allow themselves to be drawn into inappropriate attention-seeking situations such as tantrums or crushes
- Never exaggerate or trivialise child abuse issues or make suggestive remarks or gestures about or to a child or young person, even in fun

Sharing information

Parents / persons with parental responsibility are ultimately responsible for their children's welfare at all times, and they should be assured that their children are involved with a credible organisation.

All concerns and allegations of abuse will be taken seriously by trustees, staff, and volunteers and responded to appropriately – this may require a referral to children's services and, in emergencies, the police.

Written information relating to specific children will not be kept by the Trust.

New pictures for use on the web site will only be published with the written consent of a school or parent.

The Trust's child protection policy will be made available as follows:

- Published on our web site www.hurst-water-meadow.co.uk
- It will be referred to in our Teachers' Information Pack
- As requested by appropriate bodies

Recruitment of new Trustees / volunteers

Each new Trustee is made familiar with HWMT policies and procedures including this Child Protection Policy and its Code of behaviour.

Generally volunteers will not have contact with children. In the event that a Trustee or volunteer is required to, then they will be given a copy of this Child Protection Policy, and appropriate vetting procedures and CRB checks will be made.

The intention is that the above policies will be carried out and therefore the risk of child protection concerns minimised. Most concerns should be reported to the accompanying parent, carer, responsible adult, or teacher. However, in the unlikely event of a serious problem occurring, the Trustee or volunteer should immediately contact the police.

The Trust's administrator will be the designated person responsible for Child Care matters, reporting to the Secretary.

Complaints

Complaints and concerns should be made in writing to the Secretary.

Contact details

HWMT Administrator	Lisbet Clements 19 Page Furlong, Dorchester-on-Thames, Wallingford, Oxon, OX10 7PU Tel: 01865 340753
HWMT Secretary	Mike Southon 4 Orchard Haven, Dorchester-on-Thames, Wallingford, Oxon, OX10 7JN
Social Services	Oxfordshire County Council Social and Health Care Team PO Box 780, Oxford, OX1 9GX Tel: 0845 050 7666
Police	Abingdon Police Station Colwell Drive, Abingdon, Oxon, OX14 1AU Tel: 0845 8 505 505
NSPCC help line	0808 800 5000

This Policy was formally adopted by the Trustees at their meeting on 1 December 2011.