



## **Wash Wader Research Group**

### **Safeguarding Vulnerable Adults and Children Policy**

This policy applies to all those who are involved in our activities either on a voluntary basis or people who are engaged to deliver work on the Groups behalf.

#### **Purpose**

The purpose of this policy is to set out our approach and commitment to protecting children and vulnerable adults who engage with WWRG from harm and abuse. All children and vulnerable adults, regardless of age, disability, gender, racial heritage, religious belief, sexual orientation or identity, have a right to protection from harm and abuse.

Safeguarding children duties apply to any charity working with, or coming into contact with, anyone under the age of 18.

Safeguarding vulnerable adults means protecting their right to live in safety and free from abuse and neglect. Some adults are considered to be at greater risks so are given more protection by law. An adult at risk is anyone aged 18 or over who:

- is a person has needs for care and support;
- is experiencing, or at risk of, abuse or neglect;
- as a result of their care and support needs, is unable to protect themselves against the abuse or neglect, or the risk of it.

All children under the age of 18 are welcome to WWRG events and activities with the express permission of a parent or carer. Should a child come to an event or group activity, the group requires that an accompanying adult takes responsibility for them at all times.

Vulnerable adults are welcome at WWRG events and activities. It is requested that the enquiries officer is made aware of any specific requirement needed to support the needs of the group or the individual and this will be passed to the trip organisers

and team leads in confidence. If an individual brings a vulnerable adult or adults to an event, the WWRG team/trip leader will be guided by the individual's needs.

This policy sets out our approach to safeguarding children and vulnerable adults. Whilst many of the principles are the same, we recognise there are important differences between the two:

- A child is always covered by safeguarding whereas whether an adult is at risk or not is something which changes with their circumstances.
- When safeguarding adults, you must understand that everyone has the right to make decisions for themselves. Otherwise you can accidentally cause a different kind of harm by removing a person's freedom of choice.
- It is important to consider the individual adult's needs in every situation. Whilst safety is the primary concern for children it is still important to listen to their views.

We will seek to keep children safe by:

- Valuing them, listening to and respecting them
- Appointing and training at least one designated safeguarding officers
- Sharing information about child protection and good practice with staff, volunteers, parents and children
- Sharing concerns with agencies that need to know, involving parents and children.
- Keeping our policy and procedures under review.

WWRG Members and trip attendees on trips that include under 18s must:

- Observe this policy, and any specific WWRG guidelines (see further guidance below)
- Ensure that any risk assessment for a trip takes children appropriately into account
- Ensure that any contact with children is appropriate for the activity
- Ensure that there is more than one adult present (within sight or hearing) during activities with children
- Listen to and respect children, treating them fairly and avoiding favouritism
- Use language that is appropriate for children and not offensive or discriminatory
- Respect children's right to personal privacy
- Report all concerns or allegations of abuse to the WWRG's Safeguarding Lead. Safeguarding concerns can also be reported via our Safeguarding Reporting Form ([Link to Form](#)).

Any concerns by the leader or attendee of a WWRG event will be reported to the appropriate authorities via the Safeguarding Lead or via the safeguarding reporting form.

## **WWRG Guidelines for under 18 attendees on trips**

- All under 18s will not attend trips on their own, they are only able to attend when accompanied by a parent or carer who will sign the WWRG's Under 18 Parental/Carer Consent Form ([link here](#)) on arrival agreeing to the groups safeguarding policy and practices.
- Under 18s must be under supervision at all times (either by hearing or sight) whether at the Old School House, accommodation in Lincolnshire or on catching and resighting trips.
- The under 18 and their parent/carer will stay in a room or tent on their own. If in a room the parent/carer may choose who else will stay in the dorm room with them or not. If in Friskney Village Hall they will be offered to stay in the separate room with doors with other family. No WWRG member will make a decision over who stays with them.
- The parent/carer and under 18 will either travel in their own car to catching/resighting locations or the parent/carer may choose whose car they will travel in. The parent/carer will also choose who else might travel with them in their car - no WWRG member will make a decision over which car they are in or who travels in their spare car seats with them.
- If a parent/carer has an emergency and needs to be away from their under 18 year old (and can't take them with them) any arrangements they make with someone attending a WWRG trip is private to the parent/carer and that person, and no group member or trip lead should make a decision on this decision.
- No photographs that are clearly identifiable of the child will be taken without the explicit consent of the parent/carer.

## **Parental/carer consent for volunteers under 18 years of age**

Attendance on trips of an under 18 should only be booked by their parent/carer and they will be provided with a copy of the WWRG Parental/Carer Consent Form which must be signed upon arrival at the Old School House at the beginning of a trip and handed to the trip lead/organiser ([link to WWRG Consent Form](#)).

## **Final declaration**

The WWRG is committed to ensuring that this policy is effective and will bring it to the attention of volunteers, employees and contractors. Any issues arising from this policy will be reported to the Trustees.

First Published: 10/03/2023

Adopted by trustees 20/09/2023

Reviewed: