

## **Mistley Parish Council**

### **Child and Vulnerable Adult Safeguarding Protection Policy**

Mistley Parish Council recognise that it has a fundamental duty of care towards children and vulnerable adults and acknowledges its responsibilities to keep them safe while engaged in Mistley Parish Council activities. Mistley Parish Council is committed to the welfare of children and vulnerable adults and oppose all forms of abuse i.e. discrimination, exploitation, and manipulation of children.

The guidelines as outlined below in this policy, aim to protect both children and vulnerable adults from abuse, and also Mistley Parish Council councillors, volunteers and staff members from false accusation of inappropriate behaviour or abuse.

**Responsibility** Recognising that child and vulnerable adult protection is our responsibility, whether or not our individual roles involve working directly with children and youth.

**Accountability** Actively holding ourselves accountable maintain these protection standards.

**Behaviour** Acting as role models of child-friendly behaviours and practices. This includes using appropriate language and dress code.

**Equality** Treating all children and vulnerable adults equally with respect and fairness regardless of age, culture, caste, nationality, creed, ethnicity, health status, physical and psychological ability, family situation, sex, language, racial origin, socio-economic status, religious belief and /or sexual orientation.

**Participation** Ensuring that children and vulnerable adults are supported to practice their right to express views on all matters, which affect them and their surroundings. Their views will be adequately taken into consideration.

**Practices** Prohibiting offensive or abusive language (including teasing and taunting), and the use of gestures or symbols that could be interpreted as insulting or provocative.

**Confidentiality** Keeping details of the victims of abuse in reported cases of abuse confidential.

**Partnership** Working in partnership with local authorities, communities, partner agencies, children and families to promote the welfare, health and development of children, and to protect them from harm.

#### **Actions**

- Respond to and report actual or suspected concerns, suspicions or violations regarding any kind of abuse or exploitation.
- Keep a written record of any injury that occurs, along with the details of any treatment given.
- Ensure that all lessons and activities are safe and risks have been assessed in advance.
- Always work in an open environment and avoid being alone with one child. Ensure any private conversation with a child is in plain view of others.
- Where possible, obtain written parental or guardian consent if the need arises to administer emergency first aid and/or other medical treatment.
- No photography and videography of children or vulnerable adults is permitted at any time.

***Review Body – Parish Council.***

***Review Period – Annually each May.***

***Adopted 20/05/2019. Last Reviewed 20.05.24. Next Review Date May 2025.***