

Sacred Arts Camp Safeguarding Protocol

Date: February 2022

Definitions:

1. A Child - "Anyone who has not yet reached their 18th birthday. The fact that a child has reached 16 years of age, is living independently or is in further education, is a member of the armed forces, is in hospital or in custody in the secure estate, does not change his/ her status or entitlements to services or protection". Working Together to Safeguard Children (2015)
2. Safeguarding Children - "Protecting children from maltreatment; preventing impairment of children's health or development; ensuring that children grow up in circumstances consistent with the provision of safe and effective care; and taking action to enable all children to have the best outcomes, where there are welfare or safeguarding concerns for a child". Working Together to Safeguard Children (2015)
3. Child Abuse - Child abuse is defined in Working Together to Safeguard Children (2015) as: "A form of maltreatment of a child. Somebody may abuse or neglect a child by inflicting harm, or by failing to act to prevent harm. Children may be abused in a family or in an institutional or community setting by those known to them or, more rarely, by others (e.g. via the internet). They may be abused by an adult or adults, or another child or children".
4. Vulnerable Adult - A vulnerable adult is any person aged 18 years or over who is, or may be, unable to take care of him or herself or who is unable to protect them self again significant harm or exploitation. This may be because they have a mental health problem, a physical or learning disability, a sensory impairment, is old and frail, or has some form of illness.

RESPONSE TO CONCERNS REGARDING SAFEGUARDING CHILDREN and VULNERABLE ADULTS

SAC Safeguarding Lead (SL) 2022: Yvette Shaw

Should any worker or participant/camper at Sacred Arts Camp become aware of information indicating harm (or risk of harm) to a child or a vulnerable adult, including when an adult or child discloses something of concern, they have a duty to take appropriate action without delay, as any delay could increase the risk of harm to the child or a vulnerable adult.

Any worker or camper attending Sacred Arts Camp who becomes aware of safeguarding concerns should immediately discuss their concerns with the SAC Safeguarding Lead.

If the Safeguarding Lead is unavailable a SAC worker should discuss the concern with a member of the Holding Group, Area Coordinator or Team Lead without delay. Campers should approach a member of the Holding Group when the SL is not available.

When a HG member, AC or TL has been approached for advice, regardless of whether there is doubt or uncertainty whether a concern raised is legitimate, they should seek advice from the SAC Safeguarding Lead at the soonest opportunity.

Where a Holding Group member has been approached regarding a Safeguarding concern they will, in most circumstances, support the person as required to locate and discuss their concerns with the Safeguarding Lead before any further action is taken. Where necessary the HG member will act as an advocate in raising the concerns with the SL on behalf of the camper.

Following a safeguarding disclosure or incident the SAC Safeguarding Lead will discuss the circumstances with one or more of the Holding Group to confirm that appropriate action has been taken or decide what action is required.

The Safeguarding Lead, in consultation with the HG, will make any decision based on the following considerations;

- Whether the incident is covered within existing guidelines and liaise/advise people concerned and Holding Group as necessary

- If an element of risk has been identified and needs to be addressed more formally, in which case Holding Group will be advised as soon as possible and next steps agreed as a matter of urgency
- Whether the concern indicates a need to amend the current procedures in the Safeguarding Policy and liaise/advise on a proposal to the Holding Group as necessary

Should the incident raise serious concerns the SAC Safeguarding Lead and/or a member of the HG will contact the local police, or where appropriate Children’s Services, without delay to report the incident and to seek further advice.

Sacred Arts Camp will keep a secure record of concerns raised, where they have been reasonably confirmed as legitimate, to maintain an overview of safeguarding concerns and responsibilities during SAC. The SAC HG may be informed by this information when taking subsequent decisions or actions to reduce future risks at SAC.

ESCALATION OF CONCERNS

Any SAC worker or camper who has raised a concern about safeguarding and believes that their concerns have not been addressed appropriately may use one of the following mechanisms:

1. Discuss with an alternative member of the Holding Group
2. Discuss with the Camp Advisor
3. Contact the police directly for advice

Safeguarding Procedure Flow Chart

