

Safeguarding Policy Statement

Policy Statement Purpose

Field Studies Council provides environmental education and outdoor learning experiences for people of all ages. Creating these opportunities also brings a responsibility to ensure they take place in environments where everyone feels safe, respected and supported.

This policy statement explains the principles that guide our approach to safeguarding, providing learners, parents, carers, schools, partner organisations and other stakeholders with a clear understanding of our commitment to safeguarding and the arrangements we have in place to protect children, young people and adults at risk.

Our Commitment

Field Studies Council is committed to providing safe, welcoming and inclusive environments where children, young people and adults at risk can learn, work and participate with confidence. We believe safeguarding is everyone's responsibility and are committed to promoting wellbeing, preventing harm and responding promptly and appropriately whenever concerns arise.

Safeguarding Principles

Field Studies Council is committed to safeguarding the welfare of children, young people and adults at risk who engage with our work. We maintain robust safeguarding arrangements designed to promote their safety, wellbeing and protection from harm.

Our safeguarding arrangements are informed by relevant legislation and statutory guidance, including the Protection of Children Act 1978, the Safeguarding Vulnerable Groups Act 2006, Working Together to Safeguard Children (2023) and Keeping Children Safe in Education (2025).

We are committed to:

- putting the welfare of children and adults at risk at the centre of everything we do;
- creating environments where everyone feels safe, respected and included;
- encouraging an open culture where concerns can be raised without hesitation;
- responding promptly, fairly and appropriately to safeguarding concerns;
- working collaboratively with schools, parents, carers, partner organisations and statutory agencies;
- regularly reviewing and, where appropriate, updating our safeguarding arrangements.

Safeguarding Policy Statement – Scope

This policy statement explains Field Studies Council's approach to safeguarding across all of our activities.

It applies to everyone working on our behalf, including employees, volunteers, freelancers, associates, contractors and Trustees. Everyone working on behalf of Field Studies Council is

expected to uphold our safeguarding standards, act professionally and contribute to creating safe, respectful and inclusive environments.

Where we work with partner organisations, we expect them to maintain safeguarding arrangements that meet all relevant legal and regulatory requirements and support the safety and wellbeing of those engaging in our shared activities.

Our commitment to safeguarding is reflected throughout our wider policies, procedures and working practices.

Safeguarding Governance

The Senior Leadership Team is responsible for ensuring Field Studies Council fulfils its safeguarding responsibilities and maintains effective safeguarding arrangements across the organisation. This includes ensuring that:

- safeguarding policies, procedures and practices are regularly reviewed and reflect current legislation, statutory guidance and recognised good practice.
- safer recruitment pre-employment check procedures are followed, including verification of identity; substantiation of relevant qualifications; medical declaration; and the obtaining of satisfactory references.
- staff, volunteers and others working on our behalf are made aware of our safeguarding policies and procedures, understand their safeguarding responsibilities and receive training appropriate to their role.
- individuals undertaking regulated activity undergo the appropriate Disclosure checks at a level appropriate to their role.

The Designated Safeguarding Lead and Designated Safeguarding Officers (collectively known as the Safeguarding Team) provide operational leadership for safeguarding across the organisation. Together they are responsible for:

- Providing advice and guidance on safeguarding matters.
- Responding promptly and appropriately to any safeguarding concerns.
- Ensuring any safeguarding concerns are managed fairly, sensitively and in accordance with our policies and procedures.
- Working with the Police, local authorities and other statutory agencies where appropriate.
- Maintaining secure safeguarding records and handling information in accordance with data protection legislation and guidance.
- Providing safeguarding updates to senior leaders and the Board to support effective organisational oversight.

Reporting Safeguarding Concerns

The safety and wellbeing of everyone involved is our immediate priority: if a crime is in progress, or an individual is in immediate danger, contact the police without delay.

If you are a visitor, learner or member of the public, and have a safeguarding concern, please speak to a member of our staff, who will ensure the concern is referred promptly to our Safeguarding Team.

If you are working on behalf of Field Studies Council, report your concern directly to the Safeguarding Team and where appropriate, inform your manager in line with our internal safeguarding procedures.

All safeguarding concerns are taken seriously and handled sensitively, fairly and in accordance with our safeguarding procedures.

Contact Details

Designated Safeguarding Lead: Helen Greatorex - h.greatorex@field-studies-council.org

Safeguarding Team - safeguarding@field-studies-council.org

NSPCC Helpline – 0808 800 5000

This Safeguarding Policy Statement is reviewed annually, or sooner where required, to reflect changes in legislation, statutory guidance or recognised good practice.