



REAL ARTS WORKSHOPS LTD

The Studio, 26 Romsey Road, Wolverhampton WV10 6EX

Tel: 07882 685923 / 07762 213885

Email: realartsworkshops@gmail.com

Web: www.realartsworkshops.co.uk

SAFEGUARDING and CHILD PROTECTION POLICY

The purpose and scope of this policy statement

Real Arts Workshops (referred to as 'RAW' in this document) works with children and families as part of its activities.

These include (but not exclusively):

Creative arts activities and workshops which encourage young people to explore techniques and methods in drawing, painting, 3D work, crafting, mask making, recycled art and other innovative creative work which is aimed to break down barriers and build confidence.

Music activities with a particular focus on song-writing and creating new work. This includes: lyric writing; melody creation; structure of the song and recording and distribution of the new work.

British Sign Language (BSL) – delivering Deaf awareness strategies and basic skills in BSL which enable hearing people to communicate with BSL users.

The purpose of this policy statement is:

- to protect children and young people who receive **RAW's** services. This includes the children of adults who use our services
- to provide parents, staff and volunteers with the overarching principles that guide our approach to child protection.

This policy statement applies to anyone working on behalf of **RAW** including senior managers and the board of trustees, paid staff, volunteers, sessional workers, agency staff and students.

Legal framework This policy has been drawn up on the basis of legislation, policy and guidance that seeks to protect children in England. A summary of the key legislation and guidance is available from www.nspcc.org.uk/childprotection

We believe that:

- children and young people should never experience abuse of any kind
- we have a responsibility to promote the welfare of all children and young people, to keep them safe and to practise in a way that protects them.
- All children/young people have the right to express their views, feelings and wishes and voice their own values and beliefs;
- All children/young people should be encouraged to respect each other's values and support each other
- **RAW** must contribute to the prevention of abuse, victimisation, bullying (including homophobic, bi-phobic, trans-phobic and cyber-bullying), exploitation, extreme behaviours, discriminatory views and risk taking behaviours

We recognise that:

- the welfare of the child is paramount
- all children, regardless of age, disability, gender reassignment, race, religion or belief, sex, or sexual orientation have a right to equal protection from all types of harm or abuse
- some children are additionally vulnerable because of the impact of previous experiences, their level of dependency, communication needs or other issues
- working in partnership with children, young people, their parents, carers and other agencies is essential in promoting young people's welfare.

We will seek to keep children and young people safe by:

- valuing, listening to and respecting them
- appointing a nominated child protection/safeguarding lead, a deputy child protection/safeguarding lead and a lead trustee/board member for safeguarding
- developing child protection and safeguarding policies and procedures which reflect best practice
- using our safeguarding procedures to share concerns and relevant information with agencies who need to know, and involving children, young people, parents, families and carers appropriately
- creating and maintaining an anti-bullying environment and ensuring that we have a policy and procedure to help us deal effectively with any bullying that does arise.
- developing and implementing an effective online safety policy and related procedures
- sharing information about child protection and safeguarding best practice with children, their families, staff and volunteers via leaflets, posters, group work and one-to-one discussions
- recruiting staff and volunteers safely, ensuring all necessary checks are made
- providing effective management for staff and volunteers through supervision, support, training and quality assurance measures
- implementing a code of conduct for staff and volunteers

- using our procedures to manage any allegations against staff and volunteers appropriately
- ensuring that we have effective complaints and whistleblowing measures in place
- ensuring that we provide a safe physical environment for our children, young people, staff and volunteers, by applying health and safety measures in accordance with the law and regulatory guidance
- recording and storing information professionally and securely. Related policies and procedures

Child abuse and neglect

Child abuse is any form of physical, emotional or sexual mistreatment or lack of care that leads to injury or harm. An individual may abuse or neglect a child directly, or by failing to protect them from harm. Some forms of child abuse and neglect are listed below.

- **Emotional abuse** is the persistent emotional maltreatment of a child so as to cause severe and persistent adverse effects on the child's emotional development. It may involve making the child feel that they are worthless, unloved, or inadequate. Some level of emotional abuse is involved in all types of maltreatment of a child, though it may occur alone.
- **Physical abuse** can involve hitting, shaking, throwing, poisoning, burning, drowning, suffocating or otherwise causing physical harm to a child. Physical harm may be also caused when a parent or carer feigns the symptoms of, or deliberately causes, ill health to a child.
- **Sexual abuse** involves forcing or enticing a child to take part in sexual activities, whether or not the child is aware of what is happening. This can involve physical contact, or non-contact activities such as showing children sexual activities or encouraging them to behave in sexually inappropriate ways.
- **Neglect** is the persistent failure to meet a child's basic physical and emotional needs. It can involve a failure to provide adequate food, clothing and shelter, to protect a child from physical and emotional harm, to ensure adequate supervision or to allow access to medical treatment.

Signs of child abuse and neglect

Signs of possible abuse and neglect may include:

- significant changes in a child's behaviour
- deterioration in a child's general well-being
- unexplained bruising or marks
- comments made by a child which give cause for concern
- reasons to suspect neglect or abuse outside the setting, eg in the child's home, or that a girl may have been subjected to (or is at risk of) female genital mutilation, or that the child may have witnessed domestic abuse
- inappropriate behaviour displayed by a member of staff, or any other person. For example, inappropriate sexual comments, excessive one-to-one attention beyond the requirements of their role, or inappropriate sharing of images.

If abuse is suspected or disclosed

When a child makes a disclosure to a member of staff, that member of staff will:

- reassure the child that they were not to blame and were right to speak out
- listen to the child but not question them
- give reassurance that the staff member will take action
- record the incident as soon as possible (see ***Logging a concern*** below).

If a member of staff witnesses or suspects abuse, they will record the matter straightaway using the **Logging a concern** form. If a third party expresses concern that a child is being abused, we will encourage them to contact Social Care directly. If they will not do so, we will explain that the Club is obliged to and the incident will be logged accordingly.

Peer-on-peer abuse

Children are vulnerable to abuse by their peers. Peer-on-peer abuse is taken seriously by staff and will be subject to the same child protection procedures as other forms of abuse. Staff are aware of the potential uses of information technology for bullying and abusive behaviour between young people.

Staff will not dismiss abusive behaviour as normal between young people. The presence of one or more of the following in relationships between children should always trigger concern about the possibility of peer-on-peer abuse:

- Sexual activity (in primary school-aged children) of any kind, including sexting
- One of the children is significantly more dominant than the other (eg much older)
- One of the children is significantly more vulnerable than the other (eg in terms of disability, confidence, physical strength)
- There has been some use of threats, bribes or coercion to ensure compliance or secrecy.

If peer-on-peer abuse is suspected or disclosed

We will follow the same procedures as set out above for responding to child abuse.

Extremism and radicalisation

All childcare settings have a legal duty to protect children from the risk of radicalisation and being drawn into extremism. There are many reasons why a child might be vulnerable to radicalisation, eg:

- feeling alienated or alone
- seeking a sense of identity or individuality
- suffering from mental health issues such as depression
- desire for adventure or wanting to be part of a larger cause
- associating with others who hold extremist beliefs

Signs of radicalisation

Signs that a child might be at risk of radicalisation include:

- changes in behaviour, for example becoming withdrawn or aggressive
- claiming that terrorist attacks and violence are justified
- viewing violent extremist material online
- possessing or sharing violent extremist material

If a member of staff suspects that a child is at risk of becoming radicalised, they will record any relevant information or observations on a **Logging a concern** form, and refer the matter to the **Designated Safeguarding Lead (Alex Vann)**.

Internet Safety

Children and young people who attend our workshops may spend time on the internet. They may go online to research images to use in artwork; access music; source YouTube videos for guidance on a particular creative technique; and more.

The internet holds a massive amount of useful information and can also be a really good way of learning about new things. It can also be a very dangerous place so it is important that children are protected and monitored when they are online.

CEOP (Child Exploitation and Online Protection) has lots of information about how to keep children safe online and parental controls. The link to the website is in the Contacts section below.

Reporting a Concern of Abuse or Neglect

If RAW have concerns that a child is at risk of serious harm through Abuse or Neglect we will report our concerns on the **LOGGING A CONCERN** form as soon as possible after the event to the relevant agency (see **contacts** section below)

The record should include:

- date of the disclosure, or the incident, or the observation causing concern
- date and time at which the record was made
- name and date of birth of the child involved
- a factual report of what happened. If recording a disclosure, you must use the child's own words
- name, signature and job title of the person making the record.

The record will be given to the Club's Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL) who will decide on the appropriate course of action.

For concerns about **child abuse**, the DSL will contact **Walsall Safeguarding Partnership**. The DSL will follow up all referrals to **Walsall Safeguarding Partnership** in writing within 48 hours. If a member of staff thinks that the incident has not been dealt with properly, they may contact **Walsall Safeguarding Partnership** directly.

For minor concerns regarding **radicalisation**, the DSL will contact the **Walsall Safeguarding Partnership**

For more serious concerns the DSL will contact the Police on the non-emergency number (101), or the anti-terrorist hotline on 0800 789 321. For urgent concerns the DSL will contact the Police using 999.

Use of mobile phones and cameras

Photographs will only be taken of children with their parents' permission. Only the RAW camera will be used to take photographs of children at their workshops, except with the express permission of the manager. **Neither staff nor children nor visitors may use their mobile phones to take photographs at the Club**

Communication with Parents/Carers

RAW will always discuss concerns with parents/carers and consent for any referrals should be sought **unless to do so would:**

- Place the child at risk of significant harm or further risk of significant harm;
- Place a vulnerable adult at risk of harm; and
- Compromise any enquiries that need to be undertaken by children's social care or the police.

RAW will endeavour to ensure that parents have an understanding of the responsibilities placed on RAW staff for safeguarding children.

In the best interests of safeguarding children there may be occasions when **RAW** has to consult with other agencies without a parent or carer's prior knowledge. Our first concern and responsibility is the child's welfare and we have a duty to protect children first and always. Such consultation may result in a formal referral which could prompt visits from social care and/or the police. We fully understand that this can be a very distressing set of circumstances. **RAW** will follow the procedures required by the [Walsall Safeguarding Partnership](#).

RAW will employ the services of an interpreter if required.

This policy statement should be read alongside our organisational policies and procedures, including:

- Consent for community based activities
- Use Logging a Concern Form
- Use of Photography and Video sharing guidance
- Behaviour Code for staff and volunteers
- Incident Log
- Child protection records retention and storage policy

Contact details

Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL)

1. Name: Alex Vann (Mr)

Phone/email: 07762 213885 realartsworkshops@gmail.com

CEOP (Child Exploitation and online protection command):

<https://www.ceop.police.uk/safety-centre/>

NSPCC Helpline 0808 800 5000

Deaf people can use SignVideo app or email help@nspcc.org.uk.

LOCAL CONTACTS: WALSALL COUNCIL

What to do if you are concerned about the safety of a child or young person:

If the child or young person is **not** at risk of being significantly harmed consider an [Early help](https://go.walsall.gov.uk/children-and-young-people/early-help/early-help-children-and-young-people) <https://go.walsall.gov.uk/children-and-young-people/early-help/early-help-children-and-young-people> response on 0300 555 2866 (**Option 1**) if you are unsure please view our right help, right time guidance on the [Procedures page](https://go.walsall.gov.uk/children-and-young-people/early-help/early-help-professionals) <https://go.walsall.gov.uk/children-and-young-people/early-help/early-help-professionals>

More information about **Early Help** can be found at <http://www.mywalsall.org/walsallearlyhelp/>

Email: EarlyHelpLeadProfessional@walsall.gov.uk

If you have any Safeguarding Concerns

Walsall Safeguarding Partnership has a new website which replaces the Safeguarding Adults and Safeguarding Children board websites. Please visit www.WalsallSP.co.uk

If you suspect that a child or young person **is being, or is at risk of being** significantly harmed as a result of abuse or neglect, you must report this **immediately**:

- **During office hours** (Monday – Thursday, 8.45am – 5.15pm Friday, 8.45am – 4.45pm) call Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub: **0300 555 2866**
- **Out of office hours** (evenings, weekends and bank holidays) Emergency Response Team Telephone: **0300 555 2922**

To make a child protection referral, please send all information to the MASH using the Multi Agency Referral Form (MARF)

Download the MARF available on the [West Midlands Regional Procedures](https://westmidlands.procedures.org.uk/local-content/zgjN/multi-agency-referral-reporting-concerns-marf/?b=Walsall) <https://westmidlands.procedures.org.uk/local-content/zgjN/multi-agency-referral-reporting-concerns-marf/?b=Walsall>

Please send your completed form to MASH@walsall.gov.uk

Please refer to the following **video for help, support and guidance**:<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0GINgFGRI1k>

If you believe a child is in **immediate danger** call the police on **999**

Allegations against people working with children

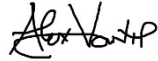
To discuss an allegation against a person working with children, please contact the Walsall's Local Authority Designated Officer (**LADO**) **Tina Cooper**.

Telephone: **01922 654040**

Mobile: **07432 422205**

We are committed to reviewing our policy and good practice annually. This policy was last reviewed on: March 2023

Signed:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Tina Cooper', written over a horizontal line.

Date: March 2023