

CHILD PROTECTION POLICY

Last updated: July 2, 2023

AspireEducation is firmly and collectively committed to ensuring that all of our activities, events and promotions provide a safe, friendly, and enjoyable experience for all young people who may come in contact with us.

The development of our Child Protection Policy is not only to protect young people but also to introduce good practice, raise awareness and provide piece of mind.

Child Protection is about

- Ensuring that any young person or vulnerable young adult is safe in any environment
- Raising awareness, and the education of others to understand what factors cause and/or bring about harm to children and young people
- Identifying, mitigating, and managing risks to young people

Primarily, we will put all staff and volunteers working with the organization through a Criminal Records Bureau check.

Through this policy we aim to

- Adopt the highest possible standards and practices
- Take all reasonable steps in relation to the safety and welfare of the children and young people with whom we come into contact as part of our work

It is impossible to ensure that no child ever comes to any harm while in contact with AspireEducation. However, implementing this policy and following the guidelines will enable you to undertake any work or contact with children confident that you have taken all reasonable precautions to prevent harm occurring while being prepared to deal with an incident should it occur.

AspireEducation expects you to apply this policy to all areas of work with children and young people under the age 18 years. You should apply similar safeguards when dealing with vulnerable people of all ages. All references to child or children throughout this policy and guidelines should be taken to refer to those referred to above.

AspireEducation's work with children and young people

It is important to remember that as a member of Kulan Youth Association Resource Centre staff you may come into contact with children in a wide range of situations, these will include

- Kulan Youth Association Resource Centre 'Away Days' to places like Alton Towers and Thorpe Park
- Kulan Youth Association Resource Centre 'Family Eat Outs' in public parks
- Children attending shows or events
- Young people gaining work experience

It is important that the guidelines followed in all situations in which you have contact with children, young people, and vulnerable people of all ages.

Who this policy applies to

The policy applies to

- All staff and volunteers (including permanent, fixed term and short-term temporary appointments)
- Those whose work with AspireEducation brings them into contact

All those covered by the policy have a duty to do everything reasonable within their power to ensure the safety and welfare of children while they are in contact with AspireEducation.

All references to staff and volunteers throughout these documents should be taken to include all those listed above.

Duties

- Take all reasonable steps to ensure the health, safety, and welfare of any child in contact with you whilst carrying out duties/activities for and on behalf of KYA
- Respect the views and wishes of a child as you would an adult and you must not impose yourself on him/her
- Remember that children regard adults as role models and ensure your behavior, language, gestures, etc. Are appropriate and above reproach
- Be aware of Child Protection issues in relation to the work you do

- Take all reasonable steps to prevent any other members of staff from putting any child in a situation in which there is a significant risk to their health and safety
- Take appropriate action if you become aware of anyone physically, emotionally, or sexually abusing a child
- Report any evidence or reasonable suspicion that a child has been physically, emotionally, or sexually abused whether by an adult or another child to Management and eventually to the appropriate Child Protection Team
- Never physically, emotionally, or sexually abuse any child or young/vulnerable person

Responsibilities

Activities where a non AspireEducation person accompanies children or leads a group

- Primary responsibility for the children remains with the accompanying adult(s)
- Staff should nonetheless use our Child Protection Policy and Guidelines as the basis for their action and any advice they offer; and should not agree to anything which contravenes the Policy and is not in line with the Guidelines

If due to illness or another unexpected event an AspireEducation staff member/volunteer is left in charge of a child or group of children, then they should act in accordance with the organization's Policy and Guidelines.

Activities where children are unaccompanied

In most instances the children you come into contact with will be accompanied by a teacher or parent. However, should you be the leader of an unaccompanied group then it is your responsibility to

- Plan the activities and make decisions during the event following the principles set out in our Policy and Guidelines
- Assign clear tasks to others involved in the children's activities and ensure that procedures are followed
- Maintain appropriate child to adult ratios as required by the relevant local authority and ensure that your decisions are based on the principles described in the Child Protection Guidelines