

Policy: Safeguarding Children and Young Adults

Introduction

ICN's Safeguarding Children Policy relates to all Trustees, paid Associates, and volunteer Associates. We also expect our partner organisations, where appropriate, to have a Policy for Safeguarding Children and Young Adults that includes the values, principles, and beliefs set out in this policy.

NB: Throughout the rest of this document the use of the words child/children are taken to include young adults.

Our Values, Principles, and Beliefs

- All child abuse involves the abuse of children's rights.
- All children have equal rights to protection from abuse and exploitation.
- The situation of all children must be improved through promotion of their rights as set out in the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child. This includes the right to freedom from abuse and exploitation.

and so:

- child abuse is never acceptable.
- we have a commitment to protecting children with/for whom we work.
- when we work through partners, they have a responsibility to meet minimum standards of protection for children in their programmes.

What we will do

We will meet our commitment to protect children from abuse through the following means:

Awareness: we will ensure that all Trustees and Associates are aware of the problem of child abuse and the risks to children.

Prevention: we will ensure, through awareness and good practice, that Trustees and Associates minimise the risks to children.

Reporting: we will ensure that Trustees and Associates are clear what steps to take where concerns arise regarding the safety of children.

Responding: we will ensure that action is taken to support and protect children where concerns arise regarding possible abuse.

In order that the above standards of reporting and responding are met, we will also ensure that we:

- take seriously any concerns raised.
- take positive steps to ensure the protection of children who are the subject of any concerns.
- support children or others who raise concerns or who are the subject of concerns.
- act appropriately and effectively in instigating or co-operating with any subsequent process of investigation.
- are guided through the child protection process by the principle of 'best interests of the child'.
- listen to and take seriously the views and wishes of children.
- work in partnership with parents/carers and/or other professionals to ensure the protection of children.

Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) Checks

The Trustees will assess annually, or whenever there is any significant change in InterClimate Network's activities, whether there is the requirement for any of its Trustees, employees, or paid or volunteer Associates to have DBS checks. This process will be incorporated into InterClimate Network's overall Risk Management process.

It is InterClimate Network's present policy that, as a minimum, at any of its events either a teacher, or an InterClimate Network Facilitator with a DBS certificate, must be present.

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