

Marvels and Meltdowns

Safeguarding and child protection policy

Marvels and Meltdowns trustees work with vulnerable groups, including children, and we will always act within our best interests and ensure we take all reasonable steps to prevent harm to these groups.

Having safeguarding in place within Marvels and Meltdowns not only protects and promotes the welfare of children but it also enhances the confidence of trustees, staff and volunteers.

Safeguarding is defined as:

- protecting children from maltreatment
- preventing impairment of children's health and 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

These safeguards should include a child protection policy, this is a statement of intent that demonstrates a commitment to safeguard children from harm. The essential inclusions for a child protection policy are outlined below:

- the welfare of the child is paramount
- no child or group of children must be treated any less favorably than others in being able to access services which meet their particular needs
- all children without exception have the right to protection from abuse regardless of gender, ethnicity, disability, sexuality or beliefs
- the policy is reviewed, approved and endorsed by the board of trustees annually or when legislation changes
- who the policy applies to (ie all trustees, staff and volunteers)
- children and parents are informed of the policy and procedures as appropriate
- all concerns, and allegations of abuse will be taken seriously by trustees, staff and volunteers and responded to appropriately – this may require a referral to children's social care services, the independent Local Authority Designated Officer (LADO) for

allegations against staff, trustees and other volunteers, and in emergencies, the police

- a commitment to safe recruitment, selection and vetting
- reference to principles, legislation and guidance that underpin the policy
- arrangements for policy and procedures review
- reference to all associated policies and procedures which promote children's safety and welfare eg. with regards to: health and safety, anti-bullying, protection of children online, and photography