

Holme on Spalding Moor Parish Council. Child Protection Policy

The welfare of children is paramount.
All children, whatever their age, culture, disability, gender, language,
racial origin, religious beliefs and/or sexual identity, have a right to
protection from abuse.
All suspicions and allegations of abuse will be taken seriously and
responded to swiftly and appropriately

Child Protection Policy Statement

The Parish Council has a duty of care to safeguard children involved in Parish Council activities from harm. All children have a right to protection, and the needs of disabled children and others who may be particularly vulnerable must be taken into account. The Parish Council will ensure the safety and protection of all children involved with the Parish Council through adherence to the child protection guidelines adopted by the Parish Council, and will at all times follow the prescribed code of conduct in their dealings with children. A child is defined as a person under the age of 18 years (The Children Act 1989)

Any incidents involving children (including signs of bullying) must be reported immediately to another colleague and recorded. It is not the responsibility of any member of the Parish Council to decide whether or not child abuse has taken place, however the nominated Child Protection Officer within the Parish Council has a responsibility to act on any concerns through contact with the appropriate authorities. (seek social services or Police advice). Every effort should be made to ensure that confidentiality is maintained for all concerned. Information should be handled and disseminated on a need to know basis only.

Declaration

On behalf of Holme on Spalding Moor Parish Council we the under signed, will take all necessary steps to ensure the implementation of the Child Protection Policy and ensure that the Code of Conduct is adhered to at all times in our dealings with children.

Nb One of the signatories should be the nominated Child Protection Officer.

Name

Name

**1).....2).....
Position within Holme on Spalding Moor Parish Council**

**1).....2).....
Date/...../.....**

Code of Practice

Holme on Spalding Moor Parish Council expects that all members and anybody doing paid / unpaid work on behalf of the Holme on Spalding Moor Parish Council will be aware of the Code of Conduct and adhere to its principles in their dealings with children.

1/ It is important that no time should be spent alone with a child (unless you are a parent or carer of that child) when acting on behalf of Holme on Spalding Moor Parish Council

2/ It is important to avoid all physical contact with children

3/ It is good practice not to take children alone in a car on journeys however short, or to take children home with you.

4/ Do not make suggestive or inappropriate remarks to or about a child, even in fun, as this could be misinterpreted.

5/ It is important not to deter children from making a disclosure of abuse through fear of not being believed, and to listen to what they have to say. If this gives rise to concern, do not attempt to investigate the concern yourself. Follow procedures in the Holme on Spalding Moor Parish Council Child Protection Policy. Remember those who abuse children can be of any age (even other children), gender, ethnic background or class, and it is important not to allow personal preconceptions about people to prevent appropriate action being taken.

6/ Good practice includes valuing and respecting children as individuals. Appropriate conduct will always exclude bullying, shouting, racism, sectarianism or sexism.