

CHILD PROTECTION POLICY
Tabard Gardens North Tenants & Residents Association

1. This organisation believes that children must be protected from harm at all times.
2. We believe every child should be valued, safe and happy. We want to make sure that children we have contact with know this and are empowered to tell us if they are suffering harm.
3. We want children who use or have contact with this organisation to enjoy what we have to offer in safety.
4. We want parents and carers who use or attend our organisation to be supported to care for their children in a way that promotes their child's health and well-being and keeps them safe.
5. We will achieve this by having an effective child protection procedure and following National and local guidance. (What To Do If You're Worried A Child Is Being Abused and the London Child Protection Procedures.)
6. If we discover or suspect a child is suffering harm we will notify social services or the police in order that they can be protected if necessary.
7. This child protection policy and our child protection procedure apply to all staff, volunteers and users of Tabard Gardens North Tenants and Residents Association and anyone carrying out any work for us or using our premises.
8. We will review our child protection policy and procedures at least every 3 years to make sure they are still relevant and effective.

Signed: *P Davis*

Peter Davis,
Chair, Tabard Gardens North TRA

Date: 18th July 2017

CHILD PROTECTION PROCEDURE

Tabard Gardens North Tenants and Residents Association

1. There will be a named person for child protection who will be responsible for dealing with any concerns about the protection or welfare of children. This person is currently:

Peter Davis

2. Any staff and volunteers recruited to work with children will be carefully selected and vetted to try and ensure they do not pose a risk to children or vulnerable adults. Those staff and volunteers who may be placed in a position of responsibility for or who will have substantial unsupervised contact with children, young people and vulnerable adults will be checked through the Disclosure and Barring Service.
3. We will endeavour to make Tabard Community Hall a safe and caring place for children to be by having a code of conduct for staff and users. This will be given to all staff and users and they will be expected to comply with it (see Appendix A). Safe arrangements will be made for each activity including a parent permission form for each child and a record kept of each session.
4. Any relevant information given to users about activities of the organisation will include information about the child protection policy and procedure. Parents and carers of any children using supervised activities for children will be given specific information about the child protection policy and procedure.

Complaints will be dealt in line with using our Code of Conduct.

Tabard Gardens North Tenants and Residents Association

Code of Conduct For Staff & Volunteers Involved in Children's Activities

(Appendix A)

Appropriate physical contact. It's not only what you do but also the way that you do it. It is important to think about how a child, young person or vulnerable adult may interpret your behaviour.

- Maintain a safe and appropriate distance from participants
- Only touch a participant when it is necessary in relation the particular arts activity
- Make sure any disabled participants are informed and comfortable with any necessary physical contact

Fairness, dignity and respect. The way you treat children and young people must be seen to be fair. The important thing to remember is to treat each child as an individual. You should never assume that all children and young people are alike. They may have particular needs due to:

- Their religious, cultural or ethnic background
- A disability
- Emotional and behavioural difficulties

Always put the welfare of each participant first before achieving goals. Give enthusiastic and constructive feedback rather than negative criticism.

Discipline. Working with children, young people and vulnerable adults can be challenging and maintaining discipline is a common concern. Before commencing with a group of children and young people you need to be clear in your own mind how you are going to deal with difficult behaviour. Even if the children and young people are meeting for only a short period it is worth spending some time at the beginning of each session to outline the ground rules and ask them what they think the rules should be.

- Have a set of ground rules outlining acceptable and non-acceptable behaviour
- Young participants should be involved in developing the rules
- All adults must also agree to abide by the rules
- Ensure that you implement the rules fairly and consistently

Never use any kind of physical punishment

Health and Safety. Carry out checks on the premises and equipment you use to reduce the risk of accidents, use the guideline and forms for risk assessment and monitor risk throughout the project.

Bullying. Children and young people can also be at risk of harm from others of their own age. Bullying can take many forms and you need to think about how you will deal with any bullying that takes place amongst the children you are working with. A clear message needs to be sent out that bullying will not be tolerated. If bullying is taking place during the activities that you are running there is chance that the child will also be getting bullied in other settings. You may wish to take some time to talk to the child who is being bullied and suggest they speak to their parents or teachers about what is happening.

Censorship. Alongside a child's right to participate in the arts and culture, it is also recognised that children and young people need to be protected from information and material that might affect their well-being. It is important to consider the appropriateness of material that you are working with. What is acceptable may also depend on the cultural nuances of a particular area or group. What may be considered appropriate in one area or community may not be appropriate in another.

Alcohol, Drugs and Cigarettes. No use of drugs or alcohol is permitted or tolerated during staff contact time with children and young people. Cigarettes must only be smoked during allocated breaks.