



Baden-Powell Scouts' Association Child Protection Policy Statement & Guidelines

The Baden-Powell Scouts' Association is fully committed to safeguarding the well being of its members, who should, at all times, show respect and understanding for the rights, safety and welfare of all, and conduct themselves in a way that reflects the principles of the Association. It is our policy to safeguard the welfare of all children by protecting them from neglect, physical, sexual, and emotional harm.

What is abuse ?

Physical Abuse - May be physical harm or injury deliberately inflicted upon a child or young person.

Neglect - This is a persistent or severe failure to meet the child's basic physical needs to the extent that her/his health and /or development are adversely affected.

Emotional Abuse - May involve consistently failing to show love or affection to a child or young person. May also include criticising or bullying.

Sexual Abuse - May involve an adult (or older, more powerful person) using a child or young person to meet their own sexual needs.

What would you do if a child/young person tells you about abuse?

- Look at the child directly
- Tell the truth
- Let them know if, and why, you are going to tell anyone else.
- Assume the child has been threatened.
- Try to find out what they may be afraid of.

What helpful things could you say to the child/young person?

- I believe you
- I am glad that you told me
- It's not your fault
- I care, and I will help
- You are brave/right/ to tell and it is ok to tell
- The abuser was wrong

What would you try to avoid saying to the child/young person?

- Why? How? When? Where? Who?
- Are you sure?
- Why didn't you say before?
- I can't believe it!
- Statement such as 'this is really serious' 'Don't tell anyone else' 'I'm shocked'.
- False promises.

What would you say to finish the conversation?

- Tell them again that you believe them
- Let them know what you are going to do and as far as possible, what is going to happen next.
- Praise the child for telling and for surviving the abuse
- Always finish on a positive note.

Child Protection is also Your Protection

Recording and reporting

- Record facts only
- Your details
- Time date and place of reporting
- Name address and telephone number of person making disclosure
- Personal details (as known to you) of child allegedly abused
- Nature of information given to you

Who do you report to?

- GSM, Area Commissioner or Local Authority Child Protection Unit
- If you feel the child is in immediate danger the police must be informed
- If you feel another Scout Leader may not be approachable contact the Local Authority Child Protection Unit
- Report findings safely and in such a way that will not put the child in any danger

Don't forget if you follow these guidelines you will protect yourself as well as the children in your care.

For your Protection – You MUST:

- Not spend time alone with a child/young person away from others.
- Have at least two children or another adult when taking children/young people on a journeys, however short.
- Discourage children/young people from visiting you at your home.

For your Protection – you should NEVER:

- Engage in rough, physical or sexually provocative games, including horseplay.
- allow or engage in inappropriate touching of any form.
- allow children to use inappropriate language unchallenged.
- make inappropriate suggestive comments about or to a child, even in fun.
- let allegations a child/young person makes go unrecorded.
- do things of a personal nature for children that they can do for themselves

To protect the child while in your care:

- Ensure all paperwork is completed.
- Always know where each child in your care is.
- Always know who is collecting each child after meetings or events.

**Remember you must refer
- *not* investigate**