

# The Magic Club of Great Britain



## CHILD PROTECTION POLICY

### INTRODUCTION

The Magic Club (GB) Ltd recognise that when working with or having contact with children we have a responsibility to promote and safeguard their welfare. This policy sets out guidelines to the following areas:

1. Policy Statement
2. Recognition of abuse
3. Responding to allegations of abuse or neglect, including those made against leaders
4. Maintaining a safe environment

### POLICY STATEMENT

The Magic Club of Great Britain is fully committed to promoting children's rights, notably their right to be protected from harm, abuse and exploitation and to be involved in any decisions that directly affect them. The Magic Club of Great Britain has a duty of care to implement effective policies and procedures for safeguarding the welfare of children and young people. In order to achieve this we will ensure our staff and volunteers are carefully selected, screened, trained and supervised. Furthermore we will actively endeavour to keep up to date with national developments relating to the care and protection of children and young people.

### RECOGNISING ABUSE

The following behavioural signs may be indications of abuse, but they must not be taken in isolation from other circumstances in a child's life. One sign on its own may not be an indicator of abuse.

Possible indicators of physical abuse

- Any injuries not consistent with the explanation given for them
- Injuries which occur to the body in places not normally exposed to falls, rough games etc
- Injuries which have not received medical attention which you would expect a reasonable parent to give/arrange
- Instances where children are kept away from the group inappropriately
- Reluctance to change for, or participate in, games or swimming
- Bruises, bites, burns fractures etc. which do not have an accidental explanation (eg several cigarette burn in one place - one accidental - several)
- Cutting/slashing/substance abuse

#### Indicators of Possible Sexual Abuse

- Any allegations made by a child concerning sexual abuse
- Any child with an excessive pre-occupation with sexual matters and a detailed knowledge of adult sexual behaviour, who regularly engages in age-inappropriate sexual play
- Sexual activity through words, play or drawings
- A child who is sexually provocative or seductive with adults
- Inappropriate bed-sharing arrangements at home
- Severe sleep disturbances with fears, phobias, vivid dreams or nightmares

#### Emotional Indicators of Abuse

- Marked changes or regression in mood and behaviour, particularly where a child withdraws or becomes clinging. Also depression/aggression
- Nervousness/frozen watchfulness
- Sudden under-achievement or lack of concentration
- Inappropriate relationships with peers and/or adults
- Attention seeking behaviour
- Persistent tiredness
- Running away/stealing/lying

#### Indicators of Possible Neglect

- Inadequate food and nutrition
- Inadequate shelter or living conditions
- Inadequate clothing
- Exposure to physical danger or harm
- Failure to ensure the child received access to appropriate medical care or treatment

#### RESPONDING TO ALLEGATIONS OF ABUSE

- It is not the responsibility of anyone working for (The Magic Club (GB) Ltd) to take responsibility or to decide or not child abuse has taken place. However there is a responsibility to act on any concerns through contact with the appropriate authorities.

- This organisation has appointed a person responsible for Child Protection matters
- If you suspect that abuse may have taken place you must report concerns as soon as possible to the Child Protection Office. The Officer will be responsible for referring allegations or suspicions of neglect or abuse to the statutory authorities. In the absence of the Child Protection Officer the concerns should be reported to the Head Teacher of the school.
- Every effort should be made to ensure that confidentiality is maintained for all concerned
- If a child discloses abuse, listen carefully to what they have to say but do not question them. Reassure them that it is safe to talk and write down what was said as soon as possible afterwards
- Do not inform the alleged abuser about any suspicion of abuse or disclosure until advice has been given on this by the statutory agencies

#### MAINTAINING A SAFE ENVIRONMENT

- Where possible work in an open environment. Avoid being alone with a child or being in an unobserved situation. Encourage openness and an environment in which there are no secrets
- Treat all young people/disabled adults equally, and with respect and dignity
- Do not invite children or young people into your home

#### PRACTICE NEVER TO BE SANCTIONED

The following should NEVER be sanctioned. You should never

- Engage in rough, physical or sexually provocative games, including horseplay
- Allow or engage in any form of inappropriate touching
- Allow children to use inappropriate language unchallenged
- Make sexually suggestive comments to a child, even in fun
- Reduce a child to tears as a form of control
- Allow allegations made by a child to go unchallenged, unrecorded or not acted on
- Do things of a personal nature for children or disabled adults, that they can do for themselves

#### OUR CHILD PROTECTION OFFICER IS:

Sheila Goode

Telephone: 07730 11 11 11

The Magic Club (GB) Ltd is committed to creating and maintaining the safest possible environment for children and young people

We believe

1. The safety and welfare of children should always be of paramount importance, whatever the circumstances
2. That everyone with a role of working with children has a responsibility to safeguard and promote a child's welfare particularly when it come to protecting children from abuse
3. Special care is needed in dealing with children whose age, inexperience or physical state makes them particularly vulnerable to abuse.

Contact

Sheila Goode

email: [info@themagicclub.com](mailto:info@themagicclub.com)

Mobile: 07730 111111

Website: [www.themagicclub.com](http://www.themagicclub.com)

Registered Office.

3a Warwick Road, Beaconsfield, Buckinghamshire. HP9 2PE