

**Safeguarding Policy**

Tales and Trails Forest School

Last review: October 2019

**Safeguarding policy**

 This policy applies to all staff, volunteers, sessional workers, students or anyone else working on behalf of Tales and Trails Forest School. The purpose of this policy is:

• to protect children and young people who receive services from Tales and Trails including the children of adults who use our services.

• to provide staff and volunteers with the overarching principles that guide our approach to safeguarding. Tales and Trails believes that a child or young person should never experience abuse of any kind. We have a responsibility to promote the welfare of all children and young people and to keep them safe. We are committed to practice in a way that keeps them safe.

**Legal Framework**

 This policy has been drawn up on the basis of law and guidance that seeks to protect children, namely:

• Children Act 1989

• United Convention of the Rights of the Child 1991

• Data Protection Act 2018 (GDPR)

• Sexual Offences Act 2003

• Children Act 2004

• Protection of Freedoms Act 2012

• Relevant government guidance on safeguarding children

**We recognise that**:

• the welfare of the child is paramount, as stated in the Children Act 1989

• all children, regardless of age, disability, gender, racial heritage, religious belief, sexual orientation or identity, have a right to equal protection from all types of harm and abuse

• some children are additionally vulnerable because of the impact of previous experiences, their level of dependency, communication needs or other issues

 • working in partnership with children, young people, their parents, carers is essential in promoting young people’s welfare.

**We will seek to keep children and young people safe by**:

 • valuing them, listening to and respecting them

 • adopting child protection practices through procedures and a code of conduct for staff and volunteers

• developing and implementing an effective e-safety policy and related procedures

• providing effective management for staff and volunteers through supervision, support and training

• recruiting staff and volunteers safely, ensuring all necessary checks are made

• sharing information about child protection and good practice with children, parents, staff and volunteers

• sharing concerns with agencies who need to know, and involving parents and children appropriately.