



Child Protection Policy for Neya Volunteers

Neya recognizes its responsibility to create a safe place for children and to develop awareness of issues relating to child protection.

All volunteers should adhere to the following principles and action:

- Always work in an open environment e.g. avoiding private or unobserved situations and encouraging open communication with no secrets
- Make the experience fun and enjoyable: promote fairness, confront and deal with bullying
- Treat all young people equally and with respect and dignity
- Always put the welfare of the young person first, before winning e.g. in sports
- Maintain a safe and appropriate distance, thinking how others may perceive closeness to a child or young person
- Avoid unnecessary physical contact with young people. Where any form of manual or physical support is required, it should be provided openly and with the consent of the young person.
- Request written consent if volunteers are required to transport young people in their cars

The following are regarded as poor practice and should be avoided by volunteers:

- Unnecessarily spending excessive amounts of time alone with young people away from others
- Taking young people alone in a car on journeys, however short
- Taking young people to your home where they will be alone with you
- Engaging in rough, physical or sexually provocative games, including horseplay
- Allowing or engaging in inappropriate touching of any form
- Allowing young people to use inappropriate language unchallenged
- Making sexually suggestive comments to a young person, even in fun
- Reducing a child or young person to tears as a form of control
- Allow allegations made by a child to go unchallenged, unrecorded or not acted upon
- Doing things of a personal nature that the child can do for themselves
- Taking or using inappropriate photos of children



Suspected abuse

In the case of a child coming to you to report abuse you should:

- Let the child speak and listen carefully
- Take the child seriously
- Reassure the child it is ok to talk to you about this
- Record what is said
- Tell your project manager straight away.

You should not:

- Promise to keep it a secret
- Stop the child from speaking
- Force the child to recall what happened
- Ask leading or unnecessary questions
- Make assumptions
- Ask to see injuries requiring the removal of clothing
- Ridicule, reject or humiliate the child