



# **WRT SAFEGUARDING CHILDREN**

**WRT 05/19**

**WEARDALE RAILWAY TRUST**

# Weardale Railway Trust

## Safeguarding Children



### Introduction

This policy applies to all volunteers, board of Trustees or anyone working on behalf of Weardale Railway Trust (WRT). It is paramount that children and young people who receive the services of Weardale Railway Trust are protected from harm.

As Volunteers, young people offer enthusiasm, commitment and energy. They are able to make a valuable contribution to the work of heritage railways. Perhaps more importantly helping to nurture a young person's interest in railways can lead to them developing a lifelong interest in railways and therefore are important to the longer term success of heritage railways.

#### 1 The aims of the WRT as reflected in this Policy are to:

- All organisations, including charities, are expected to comply with the government inter-agency statutory guidance [Working together to safeguard children](#), 'unless exceptional circumstances arise'.
- The Weardale Railway CIC (operating licence holder) do not currently support the volunteering of children and young people without the presence of a suitable parent or guardian who is also a member of the Weardale Railway Trust. This policy applies to WRT led activities only and not those involving the operational railway.
- To support the Weardale Railway Trust board and volunteers to create a culture which supports the overarching principles that guide our approach to safeguarding and child protection; The WRT 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 keep them safe. We are committed to practice in a way that protects them.
- We seek to keep children and young people safe by valuing them, listening to and respecting them.
- Adoption of child protection and safeguarding practices through national/local authority procedures and a code of conduct for volunteers

**2** The Weardale Railway Trust (WRT) values children's and young people's safety and will endeavour to protect them in the following ways: -

- We recognise the welfare of the child is paramount, as highlighted within the Children Act (1989)
- All children, regardless of age, disability, gender, racial heritage, religious belief, sexual orientation or identity, have the right to equal protection from all types of harm or abuse
- Share information about concerns with agencies who need to know and involving parents and children appropriately
- Making volunteers aware of WRT child protection procedures and policies
- Volunteers should not spend excessive amounts of time alone with children, away from others. Meetings with individual children should be avoided or take place within sight of others
- Volunteers are advised not to make unnecessary physical contact with children
- Volunteers should not start an investigation or question anyone after an allegation or concern has been raised. This is the job of authorities. You should only record the facts and report these to the relevant agency
- Volunteers should never (even in fun), initiate or engage in sexually provocative conversations or activity; allow the use of inappropriate language to go unchallenged; do things of a personal nature for children that they can do themselves; allow any allegations made by a child go without being reported and addressed, or either trivialize or exaggerate child abuse issues; make promises to keep any disclosure confidential from relevant authorities.
- Volunteers should not show favouritism to any one child, nor should they issue or threaten any form of physical punishment

#### How to identify different types of Abuse

##### Sexual Abuse

- Both boys and girls can be sexually abused. Abuse can include full intercourse, touching or incitement of sexual activity.

##### Physical Abuse

- Children/ young people can be physically abused by hitting, shaking, squeezing, biting or burning

### Emotional Abuse

- This covers a persistent lack of love or affection, frequently being shouted at or being taunted, over protection or leaving them alone and/or unsupervised

### Neglect Abuse

- When chronic inattention is given to the child/ young person by their parents/ primary care givers in the areas of medical, educational, stimulative, environmental, nutritional, physical or emotional needs.

If a child/ young person tells you something that suggests they are being abused you must understand that this may be the only time they have built up the courage to tell someone what has happened. It is important that this is acted upon quickly.

All suspicions and allegations of abuse should be taken seriously and responded to swiftly and appropriately. If you suspect a child has been abused you must contact Durham Social Care Direct on 03000 267 979.

Responsibilities of the Weardale Railway Trust board is as follows;

- Identify activities that affect most people,
- Prioritise policies based on relevance to equality of opportunity,
- Assess how the policy is being carried out on a day to day basis and where practicable, make reasonable adjustments to the working environment to accommodate specific requirements of people,
- Consider changes to this policy in light of new legislation and/ or experience,
- Ensure volunteers who are responsible for leading activities are familiar with this policy and get support if they require it,
- Provide a framework in which inappropriate behaviour by WRT Directors and volunteers can be eradicated.

Responsibilities of Weardale Railway Trust volunteers is as follows;

- Support the policy through their own behaviour
- Challenge inappropriate behaviour by fellow volunteers

### References

NSPCC <https://www.nspcc.org.uk/preventing-abuse/safeguarding/writing-a-safeguarding-policy>

Working together to safeguard children; Department of Education, Statutory Guidance; <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/working-together-to-safeguard-children--2>

WRT Code of Behaviour Ver 1 February 2009

Working with Young Volunteers HGR-M0300; Heritage Railway Association guidance note; February 2016, Issue 2 [Link](#)

Volunteering England <http://www.volunteering.org.uk>

**WRT Safeguarding Children v2**

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<b>Signed by and on behalf of Weardale Railway Trust</b>	<b>Name</b> <b>Mr Kevin Richardson</b>  <b>Designation</b> <b>Chairman</b>	<b>Signature</b>  <i>K Richardson</i>
<b>Signed by and on behalf of Weardale Railway Trust</b>	<b>Name</b> <b>Mr. Paul Wilson</b>  <b>Designation</b> <b>Secretary</b>	<b>Signature</b>  <i>P Wilson</i>