



## Eco-Schools

# Child Protection and Safeguarding Policy

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Keep Britain Tidy is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children. Keep Britain Tidy manages the Eco-Schools programme in England and expects all Eco-Schools volunteers and staff appointed by Keep Britain Tidy to share this commitment and to demonstrate their commitment by implementing this Eco-Schools Child Protection and Safeguarding Policy and by following the accompanying Eco-Schools Volunteer Safer Recruitment Procedures.

### **Part A – Standards of conduct for volunteers and staff**

Keep Britain Tidy and the Eco-Schools programme are committed to adopting working practices that protect children and young people from harm.

All Keep Britain Tidy staff and volunteers working on the Eco-Schools programme will be expected to:

- Employ our Safer Recruitment Policy in securing Eco-School assessors and volunteers, ensuring that their identity is verified and references are sought
- Deny volunteering opportunities to any candidate who we know to be prohibited from working with children and young people
- Deny volunteering opportunities to any candidate whose identity cannot be satisfactorily verified, in line with our Safer Recruitment Policy
- Identify an independent person and deputy in line with Keep Britain Tidy's Child Protection and Safeguarding Policy
- Ensure that all staff, volunteers and trustees working with children are aware of and adhere to the Child Protection and Safeguarding Policy and satisfy the criteria in the Safer Recruitment Policy
- Support staff and volunteers' decisions to cancel visits where the school does not adhere to Keep Britain Tidy's Child Protection and Safeguarding Policy that assessors must be supervised during the duration of the assessment visit or other activity

## **Supervision of Children**

- It is Keep Britain Tidy's policy that no Eco-Schools volunteer assessor is left unsupervised with pupils (i.e. a staff member from the school must be present at all times during an Eco-Schools Green Flag assessment). Assessors are entitled to postpone the assessment if the school have failed to adhere to this policy
- Eco-Schools will remind schools and volunteers of this policy before the assessment
- Volunteers are asked to be vigilant in reminding schools that the Eco-Coordinator or other staff member is present throughout the assessment

## **For volunteers**

In line with Keep Britain Tidy's Child Protection and Safeguarding Policy, Eco-Schools expect volunteers to work responsibly and appropriately in schools. This includes:

- Reminding the school on arrival that our policy dictates that there is an adult chaperone throughout the duration of the assessment
- Not making physical contact with children
- Using adult toilets only
- Not taking photographs during assessment visits
- Avoiding situations where they are with pupils and unaccompanied by a member of school staff

## **For schools**

- We expect schools to make our volunteers aware of and follow their own Child Safeguarding procedures
- It is the responsibility of schools to ensure that Eco-Schools assessors are not left unattended with pupils
- Schools will have had several reminders about Keep Britain Tidy's Eco-Schools policy prior to the assessment

## **Part B – Procedures for responding to suspicions and allegations of abuse**

- It is essential that all Eco-Schools volunteers understand and recognise abuse of children, and have knowledge of Keep Britain Tidy policy in reporting concerns. Eco-Schools volunteers will receive training prior to undertaking school visits.
- Abuse constitutes physical, verbal, sexual or emotional harm of children
- Volunteers should be aware of the imperative to identify and avoid abuse and of their responsibilities to raise any concerns they may have

- What should you do if you have any concerns about a child's welfare? Follow the school's Child safeguarding procedures and, as soon as practicable speak to headmaster or senior management member in the school and report to Keep Britain Tidy's Eco-Schools team that you have done so. Please the Eco-Schools team on 01942 612614.