



SAFEGUARDING CHILDREN and VULNERABLE ADULTS POLICY

The 3rs Horse Rescue Centre

1. Introduction

I. The 3rs Horse Rescue Centre (the Charity) is a registered charity.

II. The Charity is based at:

Kirkclaugh Farm
Gatehouse of Fleet
Castle Douglas

Charity Number: SC047224

III. The Charity has adopted this safeguarding children policy and expects every adult working or helping at THE 3RS HORSE RESCUE CENTRE to support it and comply with it. Consequently this policy shall apply to all staff, managers, trustees, directors, volunteers, students or anyone working on behalf of Charity.

2. Purpose of the Policy

I. This policy is intended to protect children, young people and vulnerable adults who receive any service from us, including those who are the children of adults who may receive services from us.

II. The Charity believes that no child or young person should experience abuse or harm and are committed to the protection of children and young people and this policy is intended to provide guidance and overarching principles to those who represent us as volunteers or staff, to guide our approach to child protection and safeguarding.

3. The Risks to Children

Nearly every child grows up in a safe and happy environment and it is important not to exaggerate or overestimate the dangers. Nevertheless, there are situations where children need protection including but not limited to:

- Sexual abuse;
- Grooming;

- Physical and emotional abuse and neglect;
- Domestic violence;
- Inappropriate supervision by staff or volunteers;
- Bullying, cyber bullying, acts of violence and aggression within our centre.
- Victimisation;
- Self-harm;
- Unsafe environments and activities;
- Crime; and
- Exploitation.

4. Universality of Protection

The Charity recognises that:

- the welfare of the child or vulnerable adult is paramount;
- all children regardless of race, gender, religious belief, disability, age, sexual orientation or identity have a right to equal protection from harm;
- some children are more vulnerable to harm as a result of their circumstances, prior experiences, communication needs or level of dependency; and
- working with children, young people, their parents and/or guardians, carers or other agencies is essential to protecting their wellbeing.

5. Safeguarding Children at Events/Activities

I. There are three kinds of events/activities:

- (A). those open to adults and children of all ages;
- (B). those for children accompanied by a 'parent'; and
- (C). those for unaccompanied children, which are sometimes run alongside other events/activities.

II. At events and activities open to all ages, children under 16 must be accompanied throughout by an adult over the age of 18 who not only brings the child but also takes the child home again afterwards. Young people aged 16 or 17 may attend unaccompanied if they bring the written consent and mobile telephone number of one of their parents. Any person attending the centre must be dressed appropriately for the activities taking place.

III. At events and activities for children accompanied by a 'parent', children under 16 must be supervised throughout the event by an adult over the age of 18 who not only brings the child to the event but also takes the child home again afterwards. If a lone adult brings more than one child, then the children will have to stay together, so that the one adult can supervise them. Young people aged 16 or 17 may attend unaccompanied if they bring the written consent and mobile telephone number of one of their parents.

IV. At events and activities for unaccompanied children, children under the age of 16 must be enrolled by a responsible adult before being left with the event leader. The enrolment must record the child's name, age and address and the names and addresses of the child's parents, plus the parents' mobile telephone numbers. Young people aged 16 or 17 may attend unaccompanied if they bring the written consent and mobile telephone number of one of their parents.

V. Both events and activities are to be defined broadly to include any occasions where the Charity will be providing a service.

6. Disclosure and Barring

I. The Charity offers the following activities for children:

Children's club
Mental health support
School Exclusion support

II. Some of our activities may therefore require adult participants or adult leaders to undergo PVG and/or police checks under the Safeguarding Vulnerable Groups Act 2006. The required level of checking (if any) will broadly reflect the degree and frequency of unsupervised access given to other people's children.

III. The Charity will take very seriously any allegation of impropriety on the part of any member of the Charity. A member of the Charity who discovers anything amiss should get in touch immediately with the following:

Susan Murdoch, Service Manager

Email: susan.murdoch@hotmail.com Telephone: 07876593868

IV. Allegations will be appropriately reviewed and the likely risk to children and, if appropriate, will consider banning the member from future events or revoking his or her membership or both, but only in full accordance with the rules and procedures of the Charity.

7. Health and Safety Aspects of Safeguarding Children

I. Before starting any event for unaccompanied children, the Team will carry out a risk assessment and then take steps to minimise all risks to health and safety. Parents and children will be made aware of any particular risks and of the steps to be taken to minimise those risks. The Team will keep a record of all risk assessments.

II. Sufficient adults must be present at any event for unaccompanied children to enable one adult to deal with any emergency while another adult supervises the children not directly affected by the emergency.

8. Prevention of Bullying

We will not tolerate the bullying of children either by adults or by other children. If any incident of child-on-child bullying should arise at a the Charity event, those involved will be separated immediately and the parents of the children involved will be asked to deal with the matter. The Team will review all incidents of child-on-child bullying and assess the likely future risk to children. If appropriate, the Team will consider banning a child from future events, but only in full accordance with the rules and procedures of the Charity. Allegations of adults bullying children will be dealt with in accordance with this Policy.

9. Photographing Children

People must expect to have their photograph taken at many of our events and we reserve the right to publish suitable photographs of those attending, along with the names of members involved. Photographs will only be published where written permission has been given for this.

10. Managing Behaviour, Discipline and Acceptable Restraint

I. Adults supervising children at the Charity events must never use any form of corporal punishment. If physical restraint is absolutely necessary to prevent injury to any person or to prevent serious damage to property, then the minimum necessary restraint may be used — but for that purpose only.

II. Unacceptable behaviour at the Charity events for unaccompanied children will generally be stopped by separating the children from each other and from the group. The miscreants will be suitably supervised and will be returned as soon as possible to the care of their parents.

III. The Charity may apply a further disciplinary sanction; namely the banning of the child from one or more future events over the following 18 months. Any such sanction would be determined and applied by the following officer: **SUSAN MURDOCH.**

IV. A parent who is aggrieved by this ban may appeal to the Charity who will hear the views of all relevant persons. The decision of the Charity is then final. Any such appeals should be made to, and will be determined by the following officer: **Ian Robinson.**

SAFEGUARDING LEAD – CHILDREN AND VULNERABLE ADULTS

The Safeguarding Lead at The 3R's Horse Rescue Centre is, Ian Robinson.

Email: ipatric07@gmail.com telephone: 07811943595

The 3R's charity acknowledges the duty of care to safeguard and promote the welfare of children and vulnerable adults and is committed to ensuring safeguarding practices which reflect statutory responsibilities, government guidance and complies with best practice and Equestrian Qualification requirements.

The policy recognises that the welfare and interests of children and vulnerable adults are paramount in all circumstances. It aims to ensure that regardless of age, gender, religion or beliefs, ethnicity, disability, sexual orientation or socioeconomic background, all children and vulnerable adults:

- have a positive and enjoyable experience of horse care and equine sport in a safe environment
- are protected from abuse whilst participating in horse riding and associated activities

The 3R's acknowledges that some children, including disabled children, and vulnerable adults or those from ethnic minority communities, can be particularly vulnerable to abuse and we accept responsibility to take reasonable, necessary and proportionate steps to ensure their welfare.

As part of our safeguarding policy we will:

- promote and prioritise the safety and wellbeing of children and young people
- ensure everyone understands their roles and responsibilities in respect of safeguarding and is provided with appropriate learning opportunities to recognise, identify and respond to signs of abuse, neglect and other safeguarding concerns relating to children and young people
- ensure appropriate action is taken in the event of incidents/concerns of abuse and support provided to the individual/s who raise or disclose the concern
- ensure that confidential, detailed and accurate records of all safeguarding concerns are maintained and securely stored
- prevent the employment/deployment of unsuitable individuals through PVG checks.
- ensure robust safeguarding arrangements and procedures are in operation.

If you have concerns about the safety and well being of any child, young person or vulnerable adult you MUST

- Tell a member of the management team.
- Record in writing your concerns with the member of management team to ensure accuracy of your concerns.
- Any record will be kept securely in accordance with our data protection policy.
- The member of the management team will inform the CP lead.

You MUST NOT

- Question the child, young person or vulnerable adult about your concerns. This is not our role as we are not an investigating body.

The policy and procedures will be widely promoted and are mandatory for everyone involved at the 3R's .

Failure to comply with the policy and procedures will be addressed without delay and may ultimately result in dismissal/exclusion from the organisation under gross misconduct.

Monitoring

The policy will be reviewed every three years, or in the following circumstances:

- changes in legislation and/or government guidance
- Local Council advice and Equestrian Qualifications Limited advice
- as a result of any other significant change or event.

11. Other Policies

This safeguarding policy should be read together with the following policies and resources of the Charity:

Health and Safety Policy
Equality and Diversity Policy

12. Legal Framework

This policy has been drawn up in accordance with the following legislation and guidance:

- Children (Scotland) Act 1995
- United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child
- Human Rights Act 1998
- Protection of Vulnerable Groups (Scotland) Act 2007
- Children and Young People (Scotland) Act 2014
- General Data Protection Regulation
- Data Protection Act 2018
- National Guidance for child protection in Scotland (Scottish Government, 2014)
- Getting it right for every child (GIRFEC) (Scottish Government, 2018)
- Children and Young People (Scotland) Act 2014: national guidance on part 12: services in relation to children at risk of becoming looked after, etc (Scottish Government, 2016)

This Policy is approved and robustly endorsed by The 3R's Horse Rescue Centre.