

**Oaker Wood Leisure Ltd**  
**Safeguarding Policy**

### **Purpose of the Policy**

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

As an organisation we believe that no child or young person should experience abuse or harm and we are committed to the protection of children and young people and this policy is intended to provide guidance and overarching principles to staff, to guide our approach to child protection and safeguarding.

### **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

- Sexual Abuse, Grooming, Physical and Emotional abuse, and Neglect. Domestic Violence. Inappropriate supervision by staff and volunteers. Bullying, Cyber Bullying, Acts of Violence and Aggression, Victimization, Self-Harm, Unsafe environments and activities, Crime and Exploitation.

### **We recognise that**

- The welfare of the child 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 because of their circumstances, prior experiences, communication needs or level of dependency
- Working with children, young people, their parents and/or guardians, carers or other agencies is essential to protecting their well-being.

### **Safeguarding Children at our events/activities**

There are three kinds of events/activities we offer:

1. Those for children accompanied by a 'parent', or responsible adult(s) as part of an organised group e.g., School/Youth Club/Community Group/Sports Club
2. Those for unaccompanied children, which are sometimes run alongside other events/activities e.g. Our Holiday Club/Teen adventure Days
3. Those open to adults and children of all ages e.g., inflatable events at Village shows

At events and activities for unaccompanied children, children under the age of 16 must be enrolled by a responsible adult before being left with Oaker Wood staff, who are DBS checked and first aid trained. The enrolment must record the child's name, age, any health issues, and the names and address of the child's parents/carers, plus a mobile number/emergency telephone number.

### **Disclosure and Barring**

All Senior Instructors who supervise groups of children are DBS checked under the Safeguarding Vulnerable Groups Act 2006.

Oaker Wood Leisure Ltd will take very seriously any allegation of impropriety on the part of any member of Oaker Wood Leisure staff. A member of Oaker Wood Leisure who discovers anything amiss should get in touch immediately with the following: David Davies (Director)

### **Health and Safety aspects of Safeguarding Children**

All activities at Oaker Wood Leisure have their own risk assessment and appropriate steps are taken to minimize all risks to health and safety. Parents and children will be made aware of any risks and of the steps to be taken to minimize those risks.

Any accident or emergency will be managed following the Oaker Wood Leisure Accident and Emergency Policy.

### **Policy on the Prevention of Bullying**

We will not tolerate the bullying of children by either adults or by other children. If any incident of child-on-child bullying should arise at Oaker Wood Leisure those involved will be separated immediately and the parents of the children involved will be contacted 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 Oaker Wood Leisure.

### **Photographing Children**

As part of our commitment to ensure the safety of young people we will not permit photographs, video, or other images, including those taken via mobile phones, of young people to be taken or used without the consent of the parents/carers and the young person.

Oaker Wood Leisure will take all reasonable steps to ensure these images are used solely for the purposes they are intended, which is the promotion of Oaker Wood Leisure.

The images/video may be published on the company website and social media sites and used in promotional literature. If at any time either the parent/carer or the young person wishes data to be removed from the website, social media sites they should request this by emailing [info@oakerwoodleisure.co.uk](mailto:info@oakerwoodleisure.co.uk), giving details of the child and the reason for the request. The data will be removed as soon as is reasonably possible.



### **Managing Behaviour, Discipline and Acceptable Restraint**

When necessary, Oaker Wood Instructors will be firm with children who are jeopardizing the enjoyment of others or putting themselves or others in danger. Oaker Wood Instructors supervising children must never use any form of corporal punishment. If physical restraint is 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.

If problem behavior is persistent or serious, we will contact the parent or guardian to decide on further actions, and we reserve the right to ask the child not to return to holiday club/adventure days on subsequent days. Parents will be asked to pay for any damage caused by willful behavior to Oaker Wood Leisure property.

A parent who is aggrieved by this ban may appeal to Oaker Wood Leisure who will hear the views of all relevant persons. The decision of Oaker Wood Leisure is then final.

This Safeguarding Policy should be read together with the following policies and resources.  
Health & Safety Policy/Accident & Emergency Policy/Holiday Club Behaviour Policy