

Summary Safeguarding Policy

NASSA believes that every person should be given respect and dignity as all children without exception have the right to protection from abuse regardless of gender, ethnicity, disability, sexuality or beliefs. Consequently, we must all be committed to the safeguarding of every child within our programmes and to the prevention, identification and consideration of abuse and our response to it. This is achieved through systems that recognise, reduce and manage risk.

Every adult working with children must agree to endorse and adopt the relationship parameters and best working practices contained within the NASSA child safeguarding policy and procedures. A child is anyone under the age of 18

The key principles of the NASSA child protection policy are that:

The child's welfare is, and must always be, the paramount consideration
All children have a right to be protected from abuse
All suspicions and allegations of abuse will be taken seriously and responded to appropriately
Every child who is involved in NASSA activities should be able to do so in an enjoyable and safe environment with staff and volunteers who are fully aware of good practice and are confident in safeguarding issues

The safeguarding policy applies to everyone involved with working with children in a NASSA context, whether in a voluntary or paid capacity. This includes all staff, coaches, parents and volunteers working with children, volunteers and helpers.

NASSA's best practice guidelines for appointing staff and volunteers consists of:

Providing relevant job/role descriptions and ensuring clear roles
Conducting interviews with potential staff and volunteers, in whatever capacity, before appointment
Requesting and following up two references before making an appointment
Requiring a criminal records background check, where the criteria is met, before making an appointment
Ensuring safeguarding training is completed before making an appointment

Any child, young person or adult who is concerned about the behaviour or attitudes of a NASSA member of staff or volunteer with regards to their relationship with children can make their concerns known without fear of intimidation by means of the Notice of Concern procedures as outlined in the procedure document

NASSA staff and volunteers are committed to providing a caring, friendly and safe environment for all children and adults so they can develop in a relaxed and secure atmosphere. Bullying of any kind is unacceptable within NASSA activities and programmes. If bullying does occur, all children and adults should be able to tell about it and know that incidents will be dealt with promptly and effectively. This means that anyone who knows that bullying is happening is expected to inform the Welfare Officer/Designated Safeguarding Lead. To this end, the Counter-Bullying Policy will be adopted.

NASSA has appointed a Designated Safeguarding Lead and Welfare Officer to be an independent voice for children and to represent issues that affect them, which may include safeguarding and child protection issues.

As each adult working with children and young people agrees to a code of conduct, accepting the responsibility and accountability of such a position of trust, NASSA has clear sanctions for those who choose to act outside these parameters.

Further advice on child protection matters can be obtained from:

Elena El-Ketas - Designated Safeguarding Lead

Mobile: 07889 794 727

Email: elenaelkettas@gmail.com

ChildLine: 0800 1111

Newham Children's Social Care Services Child Protection Team:

9.00am to 5.15pm 020 3373 4600

Out of Hours 020 8430 2000