

Safeguarding Policy

For Aighton, Bailey and Chaigley Parish Council Children's Playground

1. Policy Statement

Aighton, Bailey and Chaigley Parish Council is committed to ensuring that children, young people, and vulnerable adults are protected from harm while visiting or using the parish children's playground. We believe everyone has the right to enjoy the space safely and free from abuse, neglect, or exploitation.

2. Purpose of this Policy

This policy aims to:

- Promote a safe and welcoming environment.
- Set out clear responsibilities for safeguarding.
- Provide guidance on what to do if there are concerns about the safety or welfare of a child or vulnerable person.
- Comply with relevant legislation and good practice.

3. Scope

This policy applies to:

- Parish council members and staff
- Contractors working on site
- Volunteers assisting with playground activities or maintenance
- Members of the public using the facility

4. Legal Framework

This policy is based on relevant UK legislation and guidance, including:

- Children Act 1989 and Children Act 2004
- Working Together to Safeguard Children 2018 (updated guidance)
- Safeguarding Vulnerable Groups Act 2006
- Disclosure and Barring Service requirements (DBS)

5. Roles and Responsibilities

Parish Council

- Ensure this policy is reviewed annually.
- Appoint a Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL).
- Ensure concerns are responded to appropriately.

Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL)

- Act as the first point of contact for safeguarding concerns.
- Keep accurate records of any incidents or concerns.

- Liaise with statutory agencies if necessary (e.g., Lancashire County Council Children's Services, police).

Volunteers and Contractors

- Must act in accordance with this policy.

- Report any concerns immediately to the DSL or, if unavailable, directly to the relevant authority.

6. Safe Environment

To maintain a safe environment:

- Playground equipment is regularly inspected and maintained.
- The site is clearly signposted with emergency contact numbers.
- No unsupervised organised activities will be allowed without prior approval and appropriate safeguarding measures in place.
- Any activities involving children must ensure appropriate adult supervision and DBS checks where relevant.

7. Recognising Abuse

Abuse can take many forms, including:

- Physical harm
- Emotional abuse
- Neglect
- Sexual abuse
- Bullying or harassment

All concerns—however small—should be taken seriously.

8. Reporting Concerns

If you are worried about a child's welfare:

1. **Report immediately** to the DSL.
2. If a child is in immediate danger, **call 999**.
3. Record the concern factually and accurately (include time, date, location, and what was said or observed).
4. Do not promise confidentiality to the child.
5. Do not investigate yourself—refer to the appropriate agency.

Contact details for reporting concerns:

- **DSL:** [Insert Name & Contact Number]
- **Lancashire Children's Social Care:** 0300 123 6720 (out of hours: 0300 123 6722)
- **Police:** 999 (emergency) or 101 (non-emergency)

- ### 9. Photography and Social Media
- No photographs of children should be taken or shared without parental/carer consent.
 - No identifying information should be published on social media without explicit permission.

- ### 10. Training and Awareness
- Parish councillors, staff and regular volunteers will receive basic safeguarding awareness training.
 - DSL will undertake appropriate safeguarding training and keep up to date with changes.

11. Review of Policy

- This policy will be reviewed **annually** or sooner if legislation or guidance changes.
- Next review date: [Insert Date]

12. Approval

This safeguarding policy was adopted by Aighton, Bailey and Chaigley Parish Council on: [Insert Date]

Chairperson Signature: MARGARET CARRINGTON
Name: MARGARET CARRINGTON

Designated Safeguarding Lead Signature: Derek HARRISON
Name: Derek Harrison

Would you like me to make this into a PDF or Word document with your parish council's logo and contact details added, so it's ready to print or display at the playground? (I can also include a simple reporting form at the end.) ☐ ☒

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