



Young Climate Warriors

Emergency Procedure

Young Climate Warriors provides a platform for schools and families to engage with children about climate change, to empower them to become agents of change within their homes, and to provide an opportunity to harness the power of collective action to respond to climate change and cut carbon emissions.

We provide schools with a range of resources, we set challenges for children, and young people, to complete at home, and we offer school visits, including sharing assemblies, or helping lead other smaller classroom-based discussion groups as part of the YCW Ambassador programme.

The purpose and scope of this procedure is:

- to safeguard and protect children and young people who receive Young Climate Warriors' services from harm; and to reduce injury.
- to provide staff and volunteers, as well as children and young people and their families, with clear directions on the steps we expect anyone working on behalf of Young Climate Warriors to take in response to an emergency relating to concerns about a child or young person's wellbeing; and
- to provide directions on the steps we expect our designated safeguarding lead to take in case of an emergency.

This policy applies to anyone working on behalf of Young Climate Warriors, including senior managers and the board of trustees, paid staff and volunteers.

Legal framework

This policy has been drawn up on the basis of legislation, policy and guidance that seeks to protect children in England. A summary of the key legislation is available from learning.nspcc.org.uk

Supporting documents

This policy statement should be read alongside our organisational policies, procedures, guidance and other related documents, including:



- Safeguarding Policy
- Code of Conduct for staff and volunteers
- Online safety policy
- Photography and filming policy

All these documents can be found at:

<https://www.youngclimatewarriors.org/youngclimatewarriorspolicies>

We believe that:

- children and young people should never experience abuse of any kind; and
- we have a responsibility to promote the welfare of all children and young people, to keep them safe and to practise in a way that protects them.

How to respond to emergency safeguarding and child protection concerns:

It can be very hard for children or young people to speak out about abuse. Often they fear there may be negative consequences if they tell anyone what's happening to them. It's vital that children and young people are able to speak out and that whoever they tell takes them seriously and acts on what they've been told.

Even if a child doesn't tell someone verbally about what's happened to them, there may be other indicators that something is wrong. Young Climate Warriors management, trustees, paid staff and volunteers must all respond to any welfare or child protection concerns, and be on the alert to recognise the signs when something is wrong and respond appropriately.

If you are made aware of any allegation or suspicions of harm to a child, including the abuse or misuse of images of children, you should report your concerns immediately to the designated safeguarding lead. When working through the process it is recommended that you:

- remain calm and reassure the person that they have done the right thing by speaking up;
- listen carefully and give the person time to speak;
- ask for consent to share the information – if they refuse and you are worried that they or someone else is at risk of harm, you cannot wait for this consent. Explain that only the professionals who need to know will be informed, but never promise confidentiality;
- act immediately and do not try to address the issue yourself;



- tell the designated safeguarding lead about any concerns;
- write a statement of what you've been told, seen or heard, giving as much detail as possible – dates and times, what was said, how you acted, any names mentioned, and whether consent was sought/ received to share this information. Make it clear what information is factual and what is based on opinion (yours or other people's);
- report immediately to the designated lead for safeguarding. It is the duty of anyone working with children to report disclosure or harm; and
- remember that it is not for you to decide whether or not a suspicion or claim is true; all instances must be taken seriously.
- If a child needs confidential advice and support, direct them to Childline. childline.org.uk or telephone 0800 1111.
- If in need of further safeguarding advice and guidance during an emergency situation, call the NSPCC Helpline – 0808 800 5000.
- If you are concerned about a wrongdoing that needs to be brought to light. A wrongdoing that has happened in the past, be happening now, or may happen in the future, contact the Whistleblowing Advice line – 0800 028 0285

The role of the designated safeguarding lead:

The designated safeguarding lead should gather as much information as possible and decide what action to take in line with the Young Climate Warriors' safeguarding policy and national guidance. This includes sharing information with agencies such as the police or children's services as appropriate.

A child's or young person's privacy should be respected whenever possible. But if you have concerns about a child's welfare or think they may be at risk of serious harm, you have a duty to share this information with people that can help. This is the case even if a child or young person has asked you not to tell anyone what is going on. When deciding whether to share information without consent, you should consider each case individually. If you're not sure what to do, contact the NSPCC helpline for advice.

- If a child is in immediate danger, call the police on 999
- If a child is not in immediate danger:
 - Contact local child protection services.
 - Contact the police. They will assess the situation and take the appropriate action to protect the child.
 - Contact the NSPCC helpline 0808 800 5000 or help@nspcc.org.uk Their trained professionals will talk through your concerns with you, give you expert advice and take action to protect the child as appropriate. This may include making a referral to the local authority.



The designated safeguarding lead should also:

- Keep clear and robust records about all reported child protection concerns and their impact on the child, and ensure that these records are password protected and retained and stored in accordance with the relevant NSPCC guidance at <https://learning.nspcc.org.uk/media/1442/child-protection-records-retention-and-storage-guidelines.pdf>
- Attend any relevant inter-agency child protection meetings;
- Involve parents and keep them informed throughout the process (unless doing so would put a child at further risk of harm);
- Make sure the child understands what action is being taken and why; and
- Provide the Trustees with an annual report on safeguarding.

For further guidance on recognising and responding to abuse, information sharing and consent, mandatory reporting and whistleblowing go to the NSPCC guidance at <https://learning.nspcc.org.uk/child-abuse-and-neglect/recognising-and-responding-to-abuse/> (updated 24 September 2021)

Contact details

Nominated Lead for Safeguarding: Katrina Judge – katrina@youngclimatewarriors.org

Lead Trustee for safeguarding: Sarah Austin – saraha@youngclimatewarriors.org

NSPCC Helpline: 0808 800 5000 or email: help@NSPCC.org.uk

Dated: 3rd October 2022.

Reviewed: 3rd November 2025

We are committed to reviewing our policy and good practice annually.

This policy is due for review in November 2026.