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Child Protection Policy

Peace Café fully recognises its responsibilities for child protection. Our policy applies to all staff, instructors and volunteers working or helping at or through the Peace Cafe.

There are five main elements to our policy:

1. Ensuring we check and monitor the suitability of volunteers to work with children.
2. Raising awareness of child protection issues and equipping children with the skills needed to keep them safe.
3. Developing and then implementing procedures for identifying and reporting cases, or suspected cases, of abuse.
4. Supporting a safe environment in which children can learn and develop.

Peace Café recognizes that staff, teachers and volunteers are well placed to observe the outward signs of abuse. Peace Cafe will therefore support an environment where:

1. Children feel secure, are encouraged to talk, and are listened to.
2. Children know that there are adults whom they can approach if they are worried.
3. Opportunities exist for children to develop the skills they need to recognise and stay safe from abuse.

Peace Cafe will encourage and support:

1. the training of two designated senior persons for child protection who have received appropriate training and support for this role.
2. staff, instructors and volunteers in understanding their responsibilities in being alert to the signs of abuse and responsibility for referring any concerns to the designated senior persons responsible for child protection.
3. the development of effective links with relevant agencies and co-operate as required with their enquiries regarding child protection matters.
4. maintenance of written records of concerns about children, even where there is no need to refer the matter immediately. All records should be kept securely and confidentially.
5. follow up procedures where an allegation is made against a member of staff or volunteer.
6. safe recruitment practices.
7. an ethos which promotes a positive, supportive and secure environment and gives children a sense of being valued.