



Registered Charity No. 1109902

# MASKS Safeguarding Policy

This policy was reviewed in

March 2025

This policy is to be reviewed by

December 2025



## **Introduction**

This policy sets out the principles for safeguarding within MASKS. It is relevant to all within the charity and is endorsed by the committee of Trustees. It will be reviewed annually to ensure that it remains appropriate to the charity and its volunteers needs annually. This does not replace the Vale Federation Child Protection Policy which applies to both schools' staff.

## **Responsibility**

We have a duty of care to consider the safety of children and vulnerable adults. This should be taken into consideration when risk assessing a MASKS event and the duration of such events.

It is best practice to have a set of procedures in place and guidelines for volunteers to follow at events, this may be developed with guidance from the school

All charity members should be aware of the person responsible for safeguarding within the school. The school may provide training for charity/PTA members on safeguarding and the procedures to follow or the charity may arrange their own training for its volunteers

## **What to do if you have concerns about a child**

You may have concerns about a child because of something you have seen or heard, or a child may choose to disclose something to you.

If a child discloses information to you, you should:

- Listen to the child without displaying shock or disbelief
- Accept what is said and reassure the child, do not make promises that you may not be able to keep, e.g. 'Everything will be alright now'
- Do not ask leading questions and do not interrogate the child – this is not your responsibility to investigate
- Explain to the child what you have to do next and who you have to talk to
- Take notes, if possible, or write up the conversation as soon as possible afterwards



- Contact the school safeguarding officer or a member of the school leadership team as soon as possible

### **Guidance for Events:**

- All Events should be risk assessed
- Events where children are dropped off and collected – a register should be available, and children should be checked in and out of the event. The charity/PTA should have a list of any child being collected by another parent/carers or travelling home alone
- Contact details for the child's parent/carers may be collated by the PTA for the event
- Exits should be monitored to ensure children cannot leave an event unattended
- If this is a regulated activity the volunteer will need an Enhanced DBS check.

This policy will be reviewed by the Trustees committee annually.

### **Date of Next Review**

To be reviewed March 2026