

Blewbury Village Hall Executive Management Committee – Safeguarding Policy

POLICY STATEMENT

Blewbury Village Hall Executive Management Committee recognises and values children, young people and vulnerable adults as equal partners in the work and life of Blewbury Village Hall. The Committee wish to encourage children, young people and vulnerable adults in the safe use of the Village Hall and its facilities equally with other people.

All children, young people and vulnerable adults without exception have the right to protection from abuse, whether physical, verbal, bullying, exclusion or neglect. Bullying, shouting, physical violence, sexism and racism towards children and vulnerable adults, who utilise Blewbury Village Hall and its facilities, will not be permitted or tolerated.

This Safeguarding Policy is in place to protect all vulnerable persons regardless of gender, ethnicity, disability, sexuality, religion or faith. Blewbury Village Hall Executive Management Committee will respond to any concerns regarding the physical, sexual, emotional or psychological safety of a vulnerable person or concerns relating to discriminatory or financial violation or exploitation of a vulnerable person.

AIMS

Blewbury Village Hall Executive Management Committee aims to protect and safeguard the welfare of children, young people and vulnerable adults whilst they are undertaking activities in the Village Hall. This policy document details the principles that the Executive Management Committee will follow in safeguarding children and vulnerable adults and specific procedures that will be adopted to reinforce these principles.

PRINCIPLES

1. No Blewbury Village Hall Executive Management Committee member or other user or volunteer will have unsupervised access to children or vulnerable adults unless they have been through the safe recruitment procedure and introductory Child Protection or Vulnerable Adults Protection training. It is recognised that Blewbury Village Hall Executive Management Committee does not supervise children or vulnerable adults as part of its normal responsibilities.

2. All suspicions or allegations of abuse against a child will be taken seriously and dealt with speedily and appropriately.
3. Blewbury Village Hall Executive Management Committee members, hall users and volunteers will be made aware this policy with regard to child protection and the protection of vulnerable adult issues.
4. Blewbury Village Hall Executive Management Committee has nominated Roger Murphy as their child protection and vulnerable users representative. Any concerns should be reported directly to roger.murphy65@gmail.com or 01235-851244.
5. The Blewbury Village Hall Executive Management Committee will endeavour to keep the premises safe for use by children and vulnerable adults. The Committee recognises that a higher standard of safety is required where use is made by small children, those who cannot read safety notices and physically disabled adults.
6. Users hiring the Hall for activities for children/vulnerable adults will be required to show their certificate from the Disclosure and Barring Service to the Booking Coordinator and their certificate number will be recorded. They will also be asked to either provide a copy of their own organisations Safeguarding Policy or provide a written undertaking that they have read and will abide by this Policy. Any delegation of that hirer to other people to supervise the children/ vulnerable adults is the responsibility of the hirer and Blewbury Village Hall Executive Management Committee will not vet these delegates.
7. Where Blewbury Village Hall is hired out for a private children's party or similar one-off private events safeguarding will be discussed with the hirers and their responsibility in keeping all children safe during their hire will be discussed with them as part of the booking process.
8. The Blewbury Village Hall Executive Management Committee will ensure that hirers are made aware that alcohol should not be consumed by those under the age of 18.
9. The Blewbury Village Hall Executive Management Committee will ensure that hirers are aware that no children may be admitted to films or shows when they are below the age classification for the film or show.

PROCEDURES

- All members of the Blewbury Village Hall Executive Management Committee, volunteers and hirers will be given information about child protection and made aware of this policy and their responsibilities.
- A copy of the policy will be drawn to the attention of all hirers.
- Organisations hiring the hall for activities for children will be asked to show their Child Protection Policy before the first booking commences. Individuals hiring the hall for activities for children will be made aware of this policy. Organisations hiring the hall for activities specifically involving vulnerable adults will be asked to show their Vulnerable Adults Protection policy before the first booking commences. Other organisations hiring the hall whose activities may involve vulnerable adults will be made aware of this policy.
- Where children (under the age of 16 years old) attend public events at Blewbury Village Hall they must be accompanied by a parent or appropriate adult who will maintain responsibility for them.
- The Blewbury Village Hall Executive Management Committee will require hirers to report any damage, breakages or safety issues needing attention to the Hall Administrator, who

will inform the appropriate people. These will be dealt with as soon as practicable, in the light of the circumstances, with provision to prevent access by children and vulnerable adults pending repair where appropriate.

- A hiring agreement, which includes appropriate clauses, will be entered into for all hirings for licensable activities. The Blewbury Village Hall Executive Management Committee will ensure that these provisions are observed when holding any licensable activities itself.
- Contractors engaged to carry out work at the premises must not be allowed unsupervised access to children or vulnerable adults. Appropriate supervision will be arranged if necessary.
- The Blewbury Village Hall Executive Management Committee nominated Child Protection and Vulnerable Adult representative will have responsibility for reporting concerns that arise, as a matter of urgency, to the local authority Child Protection and Vulnerable Adult lead agency. The representative may choose to have a confidential discussion with others in order to corroborate and support any suspicions before reporting a concern to the lead agency. The nominated person should:
 - Know who to contact at the local authority.
 - Know who to contact in Social Services for advice and referrals.
 - Know about helplines and other sources of help for children and young people and vulnerable adults.
 - Ensure that there is an environment in which members of staff, volunteers and Hall users have the opportunity to raise any child protection or vulnerable adult protection concern.