

**Hoo St Werburgh Parish Council**  
**Safeguarding Policy**

**1. Purpose of the Policy**

This policy applies to all staff, volunteers, Councillors or anyone working on behalf of Hoo St Werburgh Parish Council.

*The purpose of this policy is:*

- To protect children, young and other vulnerable people who utilise Hoo St Werburgh Parish Council facilities. This includes the children of adults who use our facilities;
- To provide staff and volunteers with the overarching principles that guide our approach to safeguarding. Hoo St Werburgh Parish Council believes that a child, young or other vulnerable person should never experience abuse of any kind. We have a responsibility to promote the welfare of all children, young or other vulnerable persons and to keep them safe. We are committed to practice in a way that protects them.

**2. Legal Framework**

This policy has been drawn up on the basis of law and guidance that seeks to protect children, namely:

- Children Act 1989
- United Convention of the Rights of the Child 1991
- Data Protection Act 1998
- Sexual Offences Act 2003
- Children Act 2004
- Protection of Freedoms Act 2012
- Relevant government guidance on safeguarding

**3. The Parish Council recognises that:**

- The welfare of the child is paramount, as enshrined in the Children Act 1989
- All children, regardless of age, disability, gender, racial heritage, religious belief, sexual orientation or identity, have a right to equal protection from all types of harm or abuse.
- Some children are additionally vulnerable because of the impact of previous experiences, their level of dependency, communication needs or other issues.
- Working in partnership with children, young people, their parents, carers and other agencies is essential in promoting vulnerable people's welfare.

**4. The Parish Council will seek to keep children, young and other vulnerable people safe by:**

- Valuing them, listening to and respecting them
- Developing and implementing effective safety policy and related procedures
- Providing effective management for staff and volunteers through supervision, support and training
- Recruiting staff and volunteers safely, ensuring all necessary checks are made
- Sharing information about child protection and good practice with children, parents, staff and volunteers
- Sharing concerns with agencies who need to know, and involving parents and children appropriately.

**5. Status**

This policy will be subject to annual review.