

DELAMERE FOREST SCHOOL LTD

SAFEGUARDING AND PROTECTION POLICY

The purpose of this policy is to safeguard and protect people particularly, but not only, children and beneficiaries of the Charity's assistance, from any harm that might be caused due to the activities of Delamere Charitable Trust. The Trustees of the Charity recognise the importance of safeguarding and protection issues.

The Charity operates as a provider of funds to carefully selected service providers who support the education of children with special educational needs. The Charity and the Trustees therefore have no direct contact with the ultimate child beneficiaries, except on very occasional accompanied visits to its service providers. The Charity has no staff and its work is undertaken without pay by Trustees and a limited number of Volunteers.

Having carefully considered the potential risks for harm to people from the activities of the Charity, the Trustees recognise the importance of their safeguarding and protecting:-

- 1) Vulnerable ultimate beneficiaries who are served by service providers whom the Charity supports
- 2) Trustees and Volunteers who work for the Charity
- 3) Any individual who believes he/she needs to be a Whistle-blower concerning any aspect of the Charity's activities

Policies relating to these particular safeguarding and protection issues are detailed below.

1) Safeguarding ultimate beneficiaries when providing grants to Service Providers

As part of the Charity's recruitment processes, care is taken to check that potential trustees and volunteers will understand and accept the need to safeguard the Charity's ultimate beneficiaries. See further below on the recruitment process.

Before agreeing to provide any grants, the Charity, through proper due diligence, requires that the Charity's service providers demonstrate clearly they have appropriate policies and procedures in place for safeguarding children and other beneficiaries, and also to combat bullying. The Service Provider must satisfy the Charity that its senior management team has the ability, not just to implement the project for which they are requesting a grant, but more specifically to maintain their safeguarding controls and combat bullying. If the Service Provider is a school, they must also have an SEN Coordinator and if the school is currently required by Ofsted to improve its performance in relation to Safeguarding, it must have a credible action plan to restore Ofsted approval.

The terms and conditions of grants awarded by the Charity are issued in writing and have to be agreed by the recipient Service Provider. These terms and conditions include the requirements for monitoring performance and reporting back to the Charity. In addition, the Charity monitors its Service Providers through informal channels within the Community they all serve.

Trustees, Volunteers or others who have a complaint or concern relating to safeguarding should report it immediately using the procedure in the Charity's Complaints Handling Policy.

2) Protecting Trustees and Volunteers from Harm in their work for The Charity

The Charity accepts it has a responsibility to ensure that trustees and other volunteers are not subjected to bullying or harassment (sexual or otherwise) as a result of their involvement with the Charity.

As part of the recruitment process, care is taken to check that potential trustees and volunteers should pose no risk of harm to other Trustees and Volunteers.

Subsequent to their recruitment, all Trustees and Volunteers undergo an induction process which includes ensuring they are fully familiar with, and accept, all the policies of the Charity and this Safeguarding Policy in particular. During the recruitment and induction processes, any evidence of lack of understanding and awareness will be supplemented by appropriate training.

In the event of any Trustee or Volunteer believing, despite this explicit responsibility on all Trustees and Volunteers, that they have been or might be subject to any Harm in their work for the Charity, that individual has the right to raise their concern using the procedure in the Charity's Complaints Handling Policy.

3) Safeguarding Whistleblowers

The Trustee Board fully accepts that any individual who believes he/she needs to be a whistle-blower about the Charity's activities must be protected from the possibility of any harm as a consequence of an act of whistle-blowing.

In the event of any such issues arising despite this explicit requirement, the Whistle-blower has the right to make a complaint to the Charity using the procedure in the Charity's Complaints Handling Policy.

General safeguarding and protection obligations

In addition to all the above particular safeguarding and protection issues, the Trustees require all Trustees and Volunteers to conform to all current UK legislation when engaged in the activities of the Charity. This includes, in a safeguarding and protection context, recognising their legal obligations not to use their roles with the Charity to exploit or abuse others.

11th February 2020