

# **Saffron Walden Initiative Child Protection Policy**

## **The organisation**

The Saffron Walden Initiative is a community group. Its aim is to improve Saffron Walden for residents and visitors to the town by working in partnership with the community and public agencies to facilitate and promote initiatives to:

- Enhance the town's appearance
- Promote the town and area
- Provide facilities and activities for all ages and interests
- Improve accessibility for residents, visitors and shoppers
- Increase the variety and quality of shopping and services
- Develop community spirit

The Initiative is run on a voluntary basis by a board of directors, who are elected annually at the AGM. Membership is open to adults and households. We do not currently employ staff.

## **Our contact with children and young people**

We run a programme of activities for members including visits, talks and community activities such as litter picks. We will welcome children accompanying their parents on these activities.

We also run activities for the wider community, including some elements which are likely to appeal particularly to children. In running such activities, we will take account of the principles below.

One of our aims is to provide facilities and activities for all ages and interests. If we are considering any projects which are aimed primarily at children and young people we will liaise with, and take advice from, local organisations working directly with them. We will consult children and young people in developing such projects and take their views into account. In doing this we will take account of the principles below.

In our activities we will seek to counter and where appropriate challenge negative perceptions of young people in the community.

## **Child protection principles**

We will normally require that children under the age of 12 attending any activity are accompanied by a parent or carer. This requirement may be waived if the activity is being run by a qualified individual who has been the subject of a recent enhanced DBS check.

Where activities take place indoors, or in a place which is not under open surveillance, we will ensure that there are no opportunities for any adult to be alone with a child or young person.

Where indoor events are stewarded, we will make sure that stewards are aware of child safety issues. For activities expected to attract children and young people we will have 2 stewards, who will be clearly identified.

## **Safety issues**

We will consider safety issues in developing and planning events for the public. We will normally require a written risk assessment, including particular consideration of risks to children.

## **Responsibility**

*The SWI Board reviewed and renewed this policy on 13 December 2023.  
The policy will be reviewed every 2 years.*