



Safeguarding Statement

Our Approach to Safeguarding

Protecting children, young people and vulnerable adults from harm is central to achieving our purpose of building character and resilience through outdoor learning and adventure. Therefore, having a robust approach to safeguarding is central to our way of working.

Safeguarding Responsibilities

We strive to create an environment for our guests, staff and volunteers that is open, transparent, fair, respectful and trusting. All LOLT employees and volunteers are aware of our systems which support safeguarding, can recognise signs of different types of abuse and neglect, and know what to do if they identify a safeguarding issue. Our Safeguarding Team Lead takes responsibility for creating a protective and caring culture, implementing child protection and wider safeguarding practices, and will take the lead when a safeguarding issue arises. Our Board of Trustees ensures the effectiveness of our safeguarding strategy and provide constructive challenge and scrutiny of the safeguarding measures on our residential centre.

Staff Recruitment, Induction and Training

We recognise that safeguarding is everyone's responsibility and that we have an obligation to put in place reasonable measures to ensure, as far as possible, the safety and wellbeing of vulnerable people with whom we work. We operate safer recruitment practices and all new staff will have a six-month probationary period, during which they will have a comprehensive induction including safeguarding training, and will be closely monitored and supervised.

Safeguarding Practices

LOLT uses a combination of written policies and sound working practices to ensure that appropriate measures are taken to protect the legal and moral rights of our guests, staff and volunteers.

If potential abuse is suspected or a disclosure is made during a course for an accompanied group, centre staff will collaborate with visiting staff to take appropriate action according to the school or youth organisation's own safeguarding procedures. If potential abuse is suspected or a disclosure is made during a course for a non-accompanied group, LOLT will take appropriate action in accordance with the Herefordshire Safeguarding Partnership procedures. If an allegation of abuse is made against a member of staff, trustee or volunteer, LOLT will follow the procedures set out by the Local Safeguarding Children Board (LSCB) and make a referral to the Local Authority Designated Officer (LADO).

Information sharing and confidentiality

We have a clear approach to confidentiality and information sharing. Personal information about children and families held by us would not normally be disclosed without the consent of the subject. The law permits, however, the disclosure of confidential information necessary to safeguard the child or act in their best interests. LOLT is aware that among other obligations, the Data Protection Act 2018 and the UK General Data Protection Regulation (UK GDPR) place duties on organisations and individuals to process personal information fairly and lawfully and to keep the information they hold safe and secure.

For more information about our safeguarding practices and procedures, you can request a copy of our Safeguarding Policy by contacting info@longtownoutdoorlearning.co.uk

Giles Smith. Centre Director