



POLICY FOR PROTECTION OF CHILDREN AND VULNERABLE ADULTS

The Friends of Downhorn Park (FoDHP) encourages the involvement of supervised children (persons under 18 years) and vulnerable adults (persons who need community care because of age, illness, mental or physical disability) in our activities and events. These aim to promote health and well-being, community interactions, and involvement in conservation activities. We aim to provide a safe and secure environment, but **the FoDHP will never assume a legal duty of care**. At all events and activities, attendees will be reminded that **all children and vulnerable adults must be supervised by a responsible adult** such as a parent, guardian, or care worker.

Guidance for FoDHP members and volunteers

FoDHP members and volunteers may encounter children and vulnerable adults only when they are supervised by a responsible adult at activities and events. You are **not** under a “legal duty of care”, but it is still helpful to adhere to certain common-sense guidelines that are followed by those who are employed to work with children and vulnerable adults.

Promoting Positive Behaviour

Our role in offering activities for supervised children and vulnerable adults is to help them to achieve their full potential, build their self-confidence, and discover new talents and interests within a supportive environment

To achieve these aims, take care to:

- treat everyone with respect
- never make racist or sexist remarks
- avoid showing favouritism
- look out for signs of unacceptable behaviour, bullying, or abuse.

What to do if you suspect abuse

Children may make comments to you or show bruises or marks that suggest abuse. Never ask leading questions (e.g., say “Tell me what has happened” rather than “Did they do X to you?”).

If you witness or suspect neglect, physical injury, sexual or emotional abuse, you should talk to the responsible adult and make a note of your concerns, together with the name and age of the child. If you still have concerns, try to share them with someone who has regular contact with the child who can observe them over a longer period. You can seek further advice from the [NSPCC](https://www.nspcc.org.uk) (email help@nspcc.org.uk or phone 08085000).

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