

Child and Vulnerable Adult Protection Policy Statement

Rivers Heritage Site and Orchard (RHSO) is committed to enabling safe and supported access for a range of audiences to our orchard activities. The Group fully accepts its legal and moral obligation to exercise its duty of care and to protect all children and vulnerable adults participating in its activities, and to safeguard their welfare.

Each year we work with and encounter many people of all ages and we strive to ensure all our volunteers are aware of their duties around child and adult protection and safeguarding and that each child or vulnerable adult will be accompanied by a responsible family member, carer, or leader.

As part of our safeguarding policies RHSO will:

- proactively safeguard and promote the welfare of all, including children, vulnerable adults, and volunteers, taking reasonable steps to ensure that volunteers who come into contact with the Orchard during organised events do not come to harm.
- maintain a safe and trusted environment for everyone who comes into contact with us.
- Include safeguarding actions within the risk assessments for each event we hold.
- We encompass a duty of care to our volunteers and by our volunteers.
- We are committed to do this by acknowledging that:
 - the welfare of the individual is paramount;
 - each individual irrespective of age, gender, religion, race or disability has the right to protection from abuse;
 - each individual has a right to be safe, and to be treated with respect and dignity
- We shall use our best endeavours to ensure that:
 - all allegations of abuse are taken seriously;
 - the response to them is swift and appropriate;
 - the effectiveness of our policy is reviewed annually;
 - a responsible person shall be appointed annually as Welfare Officer to whom members can address any concerns
 - Report any serious incidents to Sawbridgeworth Town Council and other relevant agency.
- We review the policies regularly, based on the latest Government advice and in light of any issues or incidents that may have occurred

Our Welfare Officer is:Eric Buckmaster.....

Tel No.07578170303.....

Email address.....ericandruthbuckmaster@yahoo.co.uk.....

Reviewed and agreed at RHSO AGM dated: ...19th February 2025.....

Date of next Review: ...February 2026.....