

Procedures for children visiting the Behind the Headlines Education Centre for use by all staff

This policy lays out procedures for dealing with children under 16 and school groups visiting the Behind the Headlines Education Centre and the Guardian Foundation's code of conduct when working with young people and vulnerable adults.

School groups are as welcome as any other visitors to the Guardian. However, there are certain issues in regard to children, their safety and security as well as the maintenance of the building, which all staff should be aware of and adhere to.

School Groups

Teachers are in *loco parentis* (in place of parents), meaning that they are responsible for the safety of all of their students while at school and off site, on an educational visit. They therefore have a legal obligation to take action where students are lost, at risk or unwell.

a. Communicating with school groups

If you need to communicate with a school group for any reason, this should **always** be done through the teacher. All school visitors are badged on arrival and should be easily identifiable. The teachers are in charge of their class in terms of instructions and it is important for children to receive clear instructions from an adult they know. Communicate with teachers in the same way as with other visitors: quietly, calmly and politely.

Except in emergencies or where children are separated from their teacher, it shouldn't be necessary to communicate directly with the group at all. Please leave this to the teacher and communicate only with them.

b. Noise levels

It is not usually possible for school groups to be just as quiet as adult visitors. Both teachers and pupils are used to higher noise levels at school. In addition, children are often very excited on days out and can be a bit louder than usual. For this reason teachers will need to raise their voices every so often to get the group organised. In addition, school groups may temporarily inconvenience regular staff (for example, when using the toilets. These practices, within reason, need to be treated with tolerance.)

c. Individual or small groups of children

It is not advisable to be in any room (Education Centre / Scott Room) with a child or small group of children on your own. You should open the door and get another member of staff if at all possible. If the child or children have wandered into an area they are not supposed to be in, act cautiously, ask them to leave and try to get another member of staff

to go with you to escort them to the rest of their group. **There should be no physical contact with children (except possibly holding hands for very young children in distress).**

Medical Problems and Emergencies

- a. Most medical problems and injuries are not severe and can be solved by the group's teacher.
- b. If a teacher asks for medical help, the first thing to do is to contact one of the designated first aiders (or front of house security team or Margaret Holborn, who are first-aiders). See attached checklist for telephone numbers.
- c. If there is a medical emergency, you should also ring Security on 34105/6 to request an ambulance. Security can also help to locate a first aider who should be available for any serious emergency first aid where a child has lost consciousness or is seriously ill.
- d. First aiders should take appropriate action, but should be careful not to exceed the limits of their expertise, and should bear in mind that the teacher is ultimately responsible for the welfare of the child.
- e. Injuries sustained, as the result of accidents on Guardian premises should **always** be recorded. An accident report must be completed in the event of an accident. The accident book is kept by Security on Level 1. An accident/dangerous occurrence form must also be completed, a copy of the form can also be found on Spike, GNM's intranet. The accident/dangerous occurrence form must be forwarded to Margaret Holborn and to GNM's Head of Workplace Management at the earliest opportunity.

Evacuation

In the event of an evacuation, school groups will evacuate from the nearest exit and go to the assembly point on the other side of the bridge on York Way. Teachers will be briefed about this on their arrival at the Education Centre. They will be instructed to make their best effort to gather their group together before evacuating.

Education Centre staff will liaise with the designated Fire Warden, who will be able to give information to teachers/group leaders on:

- locating any separated members of their group
- anything known about the likely duration of the evacuation
- when it is safe to go back into the Education Centre

Lost children

The lost persons' point for all visitors is Reception. If a teacher reports a child lost, education staff will help group leaders look for the child moving outwards from the

location of the group when last seen. If the child is not found in this initial sweep, the approached member of staff should take a description of the missing child and inform Security and Reception. If a child is missing for more than 5 minutes then, a search should be made of all offices and floors by security and Education Centre staff. If the child has not been found within 15 minutes and all possible searches and attempts at contact have been made the police will need to be notified.

Found children

If a member of staff finds a young child who is lost or separated from his/her group, they should **stay with the child**. They should find out if the child is with a school or with his/her family, and first of all attempt to find the family or school group in the immediate area. If the family or group are not in the immediate area, then the child should be taken to the reception desk. **While accompanying a child, Education Centre staff should never take the child anywhere out of public view.** Wherever possible, two members of staff should accompany the child until handing him/her over to a parent, guardian or teacher that the child recognises. **Physical contact with children is inappropriate** (except possibly holding hands for very young children in distress).

Children from School Groups leaving the building

During term time Monday to Friday, children should not be allowed to leave the building unaccompanied; staff should assume that they are part of a school group. If a child or children are leaving the building, they need to be politely questioned and the group leader contacted.

Unaccompanied Children

School groups should be supervised at all times by their teacher. However, if a school is not supervising children a teacher should be located, politely informed and asked to ensure supervision of their class. Unaccompanied children of whatever age, who are causing a nuisance (e.g. by shouting, running, climbing or attempting to access staff-only areas) should be asked in the first instance to stop, and if refuse dealt with by security. **In potentially confrontational situations, physical contact should always be avoided.**

Bad Behaviour

It is the responsibility of teachers and parents to ensure that children do not behave in disruptive ways that disturb members of staff. Raised voices and excitable behaviour are inevitable for children on a day out, and children can sometimes be less than completely aware of the needs of staff when using facilities like toilets.

Some behaviour is unacceptable, and Education Centre staff should talk to teachers where children's behaviour is likely to cause danger to themselves, the public, or staff, or damage to any property. This might include the following:

- children are deliberately or maliciously attempting to disturb staff or visitors
- children are attempting to enter staff-only areas.
- children are abusing facilities such as toilets
- children are smoking on the premises
- children are fighting or running in public areas
- children are dropping litter.

In all such circumstances, Education Centre staff should use teachers or parents as their first point of contact. Any direct intervention by any member of staff should be done **entirely verbally**, avoiding strong confrontation or any physical contact. If children are confrontational, security should be called.

Procedures for children visiting the Education Centre

Summary

School groups

- Communicate with the **teacher first**
- Same standards of politeness as with everyone else

What is acceptable?

- A bit of extra noise/excitement
- Teachers' raised voices
- Somewhat hectic periods as groups use particular facilities

What is not acceptable?

- under-16s not accompanied by someone responsible
- running/climbing on site etc.
- purposely disturbing others
- smoking
- litter
- abuse of office areas

We reserve the right to ask children or children with adults why they are leaving the building.

Children on Site - Check List

| PROBLEM | NON URGENT | EMERGENCY |
|--------------------------------------|---|---|
| ASSAULT ON STAFF | | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● contact 34105/6 ● record in accident book and use form on Spike and copy to Margaret Holborn and Head of Workplace Management |
| EVACUATION | | <p>Help children to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● get back with their teacher ● find the emergency exit ● find the assembly point <p>Pay special attention if:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● child has special needs ● child is especially young ● child cannot understand English |
| FOUND/ UNACCOMPANIED CHILDREN | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● stay in public areas only with the child and try to find family/school ● two members of staff to accompany child if possible ● take to reception desk until parent/teacher arrives ● if parent/teacher is not located, treat as emergency | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● contact Education Dept on 33306/7 34830 ● Security on 34105/6 |
| LOST CHILDREN | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Help group/family to find lost child ● after 15 min search, treat as emergency | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● contact 34105/6 with a description of the missing child (check if any special needs) ● If you are able to leave post, make yourself |

| | | |
|----------------|---|--|
| | | available to help with searches/sweeps |
| ILLNESS | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Contact 33306 (Margaret Holborn) or 33574 (Reception) or 34105/6 (Security) for a first aider | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • contact 34105/6 for an ambulance |

Safeguarding

The Guardian Foundation’s safeguarding policy sets out its procedures and commitments to safeguarding children, adults at risk and everyone with whom we come into contact with through its work. See <https://theguardianfoundation.org/about>. Please familiarise yourself with our code of conduct below.

Guardian Foundation code of conduct

It is essential that all staff and volunteers are conscious of how they should conduct themselves to minimise the risk to children, young people and adults at risk.

When working with children, young people or adults at risk of harm on behalf of The Guardian Foundation.

Do...

- DO prioritise their safety and wellbeing at all times.
- DO listen to and respect them, don't patronise them. Treat them fairly and without prejudice or discrimination.
- DO give enthusiastic and constructive feedback rather than negative criticism.
- DO read and adhere to the Guardian Foundation safeguarding procedures at all times
- DO report to the Designated Safeguarding Officer (DSO) any concerns about welfare/safety. Record in writing all relevant incidents.
- DO Report to the Designated Safeguarding Officer (DSO) any concerns about the conduct of other school staff/volunteers/contractors.
- DO behave appropriately and modify your language, dress and subject matter to suit the audience. Be mindful about your background on a virtual call: ensure that the background is appropriate and/or does not reveal personal information about you. Seek advice from the DSO if you are not sure whether subject matter is age appropriate.

- If you are working with a partner organisation (community centre, school, charity) DO familiarise yourself with their safeguarding policy before attending an event virtually or in person, and understand what safeguarding documentation is required.
- DO ensure that an appropriate adult (teacher, other school staff member, designated safeguarding representative) is always in attendance when you are with children aged under 16, whether your event is virtual or in person.
- DO discontinue workshops/events where you are left unsupervised with children, young people or adults at risk, whether online or in person
- DO discuss and report to the DSO any incidents of concern or that might lead to concerns being raised about your conduct towards a child or adult at risk.
- DO report to the Designated Safeguarding Officer both at the organisation, and at the Guardian Foundation, any incidents that suggest a child or adult at risk may be infatuated with you or taking an unusual interest in you. Record in writing all relevant incidents.
- DO avoid unnecessary physical contact.

Do not...

- DO NOT take, store or share pictures or videos of children, young people or adults at risk without written parental consent explicitly given for that purpose.
- DO NOT begin working or volunteering with children, young people or adults at risk until the Guardian Foundation team has confirmed in writing receipt of your signed Personal Declaration and Code of Conduct forms.
- DO NOT encourage young people to use social media outside of that platform's policy: nearly all other social media services require users to be at least 13 years of age to access and use their services. This includes Facebook, Snapchat, Twitter, Instagram and Skype. Whatsapp users should be at least 16 years old.
- DO NOT give out your personal contact details, account details for virtual teaching software (eg Skype), and do not 'friend' 'connect' with or 'follow' children or young people you are working with on social networking sites.
- DO NOT establish contact with children, young people or adults at risk outside of the work environment.
- DO NOT share confidential information, or information under embargo at any time
- DO NOT arrange to meet children or adults at risk in closed rooms or private virtual rooms

- DO NOT work in one-to-one situations with children or adults at risk.
- DO NOT take any action that would lead a reasonable person to question your motivation and/or intentions .
- DO NOT use any confidential information to intimidate, humiliate or embarrass.
- DO NOT use physical punishment of any kind.
- DO NOT transport individuals in your own vehicle.
- DO NOT make promises that you can't keep: it is unlikely for example that the children's reports will be on the front page of The Guardian.

Please see the [Guardian Foundation's Safeguarding policy](#) for further details and for procedures for reporting incidents.

Reviewed by Margaret Holborn/Lucy Saida Amar 07/09/2023
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