Irish Draught Horse Society (GB)

Safeguarding Children and Young People: Policy Statement

Children and young people under the age of 18 years have a right to participate in equestrian and all other sporting activities without fear of abuse. The Society is committed to keeping children and young people safe in all events in which they take part.

All trustees, non-elected officers and other volunteers are expected to be aware of this policy statement. They must understand what to do if they suspect that a child or young person is being subjected to any form of abuse or other inappropriate behaviour.

The Society gives equal priority to keeping all children and young people safe regardless of their age, disability, gender reassignment, race, religion or belief, sex, or sexual orientation. We are aware that children from minority ethnic groups, disabled children and those with communication difficulties face additional barriers which may make them more vulnerable to abuse, discrimination or exploitation.

The Society does not undertake unsupervised direct work with children and young people, for example, through coaching. This reduces, but does not remove, the risk that children and young people may come to harm while engaged in the Society's activities.

Some trustees and other volunteers may work with children and young people as part of their regular paid employment outside the Society. This is outside the scope of this policy.

The Society welcomes children and young people as members and encourages them to become involved in the Irish Draught breed through ownership and competition. Children and young people may well, therefore, be present at our shows and events.

We will keep children and young people safe by:

1. listening to and respecting them
2. appointing Designated Safeguarding Officers who take lead responsibility for safeguarding and child protection, who:
    - Have appropriate levels of knowledge and training to carry out this role
    - Write detailed safeguarding and child protection procedures and keep them up to date
    - Make sure that all trustees and other volunteers are aware of their safeguarding responsibilities, and know how to respond to concerns
    - Challenge any policy decisions which may adversely affect the wellbeing of children and young people
    - Oversee any allegations of abuse against someone involved in the organisation and ensure that they are responded to by the appropriate agencies
    - Report serious incidents to the appropriate authorities within the specified timescales
    - Build a safeguarding culture where trustees and other Society members know how they are expected to behave and feel comfortable about sharing concerns.

The Society's Designated Safeguarding officers are currently:

Heather Chaplin	Tel. 01823 601625 / 07392 299912	chaplinheather51@gmail.com
Mark Mortimer	Tel. 01904 490000 / 07811 553122	Mortimer01@hotmail.co.uk

This policy is informed by '*Working Together to Safeguard Children' (2023)* and the locally-agreed safeguarding procedures of the relevant local authority where an event takes place.

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/media/6849a7b67cba25f610c7db3f/Working_together_to_safeguard_children_2023_-_statutory_guidance.pdf

Date: 7 January 2024, reviewed 27 January 2026