

ANNEX-3: SAFEGUARDING CHILDREN POLICY

Our values and principles

The abuse and exploitation of children happens in all countries and societies across the world.

All child abuse involves the abuse of children's rights.

The situation of all children must be improved through the promotion of their rights as set out in the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child. This includes the right to freedom from abuse and exploitation.

Child abuse is never acceptable and a commitment to children's rights in general also means a commitment to safeguard the children with whom SC is in contact.

What will we do

SC will meet its commitment to safeguard through the following means:

Awareness: Ensuring that all staff and others are aware of the problem of child abuse and the risks to children.

Prevention: Ensuring, through awareness and good practice, that staff and others minimise the risks to children.

Reporting: Ensuring that staff and others are clear on what steps to take where concerns arise regarding the safety of children.

Responding: Ensuring that action is taken to support and protect children where concerns arise regarding possible abuse.

In order that the above standards of reporting and responding are met, SC will also ensure that it:

- takes seriously any concerns raised
- takes positive steps to ensure the protection of children who are the subject of any concerns
- supports children, staff or other adults who raise concerns or who are the subject of concerns
- acts appropriately and effectively in instigating or co-operating with any subsequent process of investigation
- is guided through the child protection process by the principle of 'best interests of the child'
- listens to and takes seriously the views and wishes of children
- works in partnership with parents/carers and/or other professionals to ensure the protection of children.