

# Chesil Bank Parish Council

## Child Protection Policy

The welfare of the child is paramount.  
All children, whatever their age, culture, disability, gender, language, racial origin, religious beliefs and/or sexual identity, have the right to protection from abuse.  
All suspicions and allegations of abuse will be taken seriously and responded to swiftly and appropriately.  
All staff (paid/unpaid) working in sport have a responsibility to report concerns to the appropriate officer.

### Child Protection Policy Statement

**Chesil Bank Parish Council** has a duty of care to safeguard all children involved in **Group Activities** from harm. All children have a right to protection, and the needs of disabled children and others who may be particularly vulnerable must be taken into account.

**Chesil Bank Parish Council** will ensure the safety and protection of all children involved in **Group Activities** through adherence to the Child Protection guidelines adopted by **Chesil Bank Parish Council**

A child is defined as a person under the age of 18 (The Children Act 1989).

### Policy aims

The aim of the **Chesil Bank Parish Council**

Child Protection Policy is to promote good practice:

- Providing children and young people with appropriate safety and protection
- Allow all Members/volunteers to make informed and confident responses to specific child protection issues

### Incidents that must be reported/recorded

**If any of the following occur you should report this immediately to the Chesil Bank Parish Council and record the incident. You should also ensure the parents of the child are informed:**

- If you accidentally hurt a child
- If he/she seems distressed in any manner
- If a child appears to be sexually aroused by your actions
- If a child misunderstands or misinterprets something you have done

### Responding to allegations or suspicions

It is not the responsibility of anyone within **Chesil Bank Parish Council**

to decide whether or not child abuse has taken place. However, there is a responsibility to act on any concerns through contact with the appropriate authorities.

**Chesil Bank Parish Council** will assure all members that it will fully support and protect anyone who in good faith reports his/her concern that a colleague is, or may be, abusing a child.

**Where there is a complaint there may be three types of investigation:**

- A criminal investigation
- A child protection investigation

- A disciplinary or misconduct investigation

The results of the police and child protection investigation may well influence the disciplinary investigation, but not necessarily.

**Confidentiality**

Every effort should be made to ensure that confidentiality is maintained for all concerned. Information should be handled and disseminated on a need to know basis only.

**This includes the following people:**

- The parents of the person who is alleged to have been abused
- The person making the allegation
- Social services/police
- **Chesil Bank Parish Council** Chairperson or Clerk
- The alleged abuser (and parents if the alleged abuser is a child).

Seek social services advice on who should approach the alleged abuser.

Information should be stored in a secure place with limited access to designated people, in line with data protection laws (e.g. that information is accurate, regularly updated, relevant and secure).

**Action to help the victim and prevent bullying:**

- Take all signs of bullying very seriously
- Encourage all children to speak and share their concerns (it is believed that up to 12 children per year commit suicide as a result of bullying, so if anyone talks about or threatens suicide, seek professional help immediately). Help the victim to speak out and tell the person in charge or someone in authority.
- Investigate all allegations and take action to ensure the victim is safe. Speak with the victim and the bully(ies) separately.
- Reassure the victim that you can be trusted and will help them, although you cannot promise to tell no-one else.
- Keep records of what is said (what happened, by whom, when).
- Report any concerns to the Chairperson or Clerk (wherever the bullying is occurring).

If you are worried about sharing concerns about abuse to a senior colleague, you can contact social services or the police direct, or the NSPCC Child Protection Helpline on 0808 800 5000, or Childline on 0800 1111.

**Declaration**

On behalf of **Chesil Bank Parish Council**, we, the undersigned, will oversee the implementation of the Child Protection Policy and take all necessary steps to ensure it is adhered to.

**Signed:**

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**Chair of Chesil Bank Parish Council**

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**Date**

**Signed**

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**Clerk to Chesil Bank Parish Council**

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**Date**