

# SAFEGUARDING POLICY

## Root Hill Camps

Root hill Farm, Betchworth, Surrey, RH3 7AS

[www.Roothill.co.uk](http://www.Roothill.co.uk)

### 1. Introduction

- Root Hill Camps are run by Hambro Rd Baptist Church, Streatham, SW16 6JB in conjunction with the South West District of the Association of Grace Baptist Churches (South East)
- The regular camp leaders are David & Esther Hollands who are members of Hambro Rd Baptist Church, where David is an elder.
- The camps are also co-led by other leaders and these leaders may vary from year to year. The leaders and other staff members are DBS checked and are known to us personally. They are active members in good standing with and recommended by their local church.

### 2. The Biblical Basis for Children's Work

- All human beings are made by God in His image. The image of God is His gift to us in childhood as well as in adulthood. In our fallen world, His image has become marred. Jesus' birth, and His growth and nurture within a family, affirm the dignity and value conferred by God on children. A child is a whole person with rights and needs, to be cherished and respected by us all.
- Therefore, children are valued yet vulnerable and need special care. We take seriously the charge given by Jesus to welcome children (Luke 9:48), protect them (Matt 18:6-10) and allow them free access to Him (Mark 10:13-16).
- This includes caring for and showing God's love to the vulnerable. God cares for and calls others to care for those who cannot often care for themselves.
- "A father to the fatherless, a defender of widows, is God in his holy dwelling" Psalm 68:5. We believe that all people are valuable and worthy of respect and care because they are made in the image of God. We believe that God is the defender of the vulnerable and that the Lord Jesus cares for and values all people.
- Children and Adults at risk of abuse are vulnerable and therefore require special care and attention to prevent them from being harmed. We recognize that harm can be physical, emotional, sexual or result from neglect. Harm may be intentional or unintentional, may come from a parent, other adult, a child, or even from a child's own actions. We believe we therefore have a responsibility before God, to care for all who are vulnerable and to protect them from harm.

### 3. Purpose of the Policy

- This policy is intended to protect children and young people who attend the Root hill camps.
- Most children and young people grow up in a safe and happy environment and it is important not to exaggerate or overestimate the dangers. Nevertheless, there are situations where children need protection including:
  - *Sexual abuse*
  - *Grooming*
  - *Physical and emotional abuse and neglect*
  - *Domestic violence*
  - *Inappropriate supervision by staff*

- *Bullying and cyber bullying*
- *acts of violence and aggression*
- *Victimisation*
- *Self-harm*
- *Unsafe environments and activities*
- *Crime*
- *Exploitation.*

We recognise that:

- the welfare of the child is paramount
- all children regardless of race, gender, religious belief, disability, age, sexual orientation, or identity have a right to equal protection from harm.
- some children are more vulnerable to harm as a result of their circumstances, prior experiences, communication needs or level of dependency.
- working with children, young people, their parents and/or guardians, carers or other agencies is essential to protecting their wellbeing.

#### 4. Safeguarding concern

- A **safeguarding concern** is a situation that has the potential of causing serious harm to children. This can include a concern for the safety of a child, unsafe organisational practice and/or misconduct of a staff member.
- **Safety of children:** A concern, question or suggestion that a child may be at risk of being seriously harmed, by either themselves or another child, or by an adult.
- **Serious harm:** This refers to serious impact on the child's physical, sexual or emotional well-being or their development. It can include the concern that a child is at risk of the following types of harm or injury: *Physical harm, Emotional harm, Neglect, Sexual harm, Peer abuse & self-harm.*

#### 5. Bullying and Control

- The biblical basis, upon which any Camp Leader or staff member must operate, is outlined in 1 Corinthians 3:5-17 (*v7 Neither he who plants or he who waters is anything but only God gives the growth*) and 1 Corinthians 4:1-4 ("*servants of Christ*").
- The worker is a servant and steward of Christ's Church. Having our redemption through the blood of Christ we are made one in Him (Romans 12:5; Ephesians 3:28). Therefore, no worker should ever behave in a way, or exhibit superiority over anyone they are ministering to, teaching or working with. We are all answerable to the Lord.
- It is probable that the perpetrator of bullying and control is a leader. However, it must be recognised that anyone can perpetrate this type and, indeed any other kind of abuse. A leader can also be bullied and controlled by others in the same way as those without any position can be abusive.
- We encourage all workers to be accountable to both their sending church and the camp leaders, and the camp leaders are encouraged to be accountable to one another

#### 6. Managing behaviour and discipline

- **Bad behaviour:** Any child or young person behaving badly (*e.g. being rude, violent, bullying, breaking the rules or generally unhelpful*) will first be spoken to by one of the leaders and if there is no improvement they will be asked to leave camp. If they are Under 18 their parents will be contacted first.

- **Inappropriate relationships:** it is recognised that on a mixed camp relationships will be formed. Whilst it is unwise to lay down precise rules about relationships, the camp leaders will speak as appropriate regarding Biblical principles either to the couples themselves or to everyone in general about expected behaviour. If deemed appropriate, especially with those under 18, the parents will be informed of any relationship that the camp leaders are concerned about. It is recognised that this is generally a matter for parents rather than camp leaders.

## 7. Parental Consent

- Written parental consent is obtained for their child to attend and take part in the normal activities of camp.
- As a general rule, under 18s should sleep in a tent for under 18s, and should travel in a staff member's car. However, we are prepared to make exceptions where parents give their explicit written consent, to enable siblings or friends, where one or more is over 18, to share a tent or travel with those aged 16-17
- If a vulnerable adult applies to come to camp then, if necessary, a parent or other adult carer will be asked to accompany them on camp.

## 8. General Guidelines and Procedures

### The camp leaders and staff will:

- Endeavour to create a healthy, friendly, safe environment
- Regard every child with respect
- Never use physical punishment
- Know where the First Aid Kit is kept and which worker is responsible for first aid.
- Use appropriate means of discipline as agreed between camp leaders and staff members
- Not tolerate bullying which will be dealt with as appropriate by the camp leaders
- Ensure all staff members are clear about the lines of communication and accountability
- Ensure campers are aware of the rules set out in the camp brochure including areas of the farm that are out of bounds. This will be done in a safety briefing given at the beginning of camp
- If visitors arrive at camp and are not known to us then they are asked to leave. Visitors should inform us in advance of their intention to visit. All visits will be logged by the camp leader. Delivery drivers will, of course, be allowed to leave their goods first!
- Wherever possible staff members are not to enter the tents of the opposite sex (except when erecting or taking down tents). If it is deemed necessary then they should have a staff member of the opposite sex present.
- Sleep in tents separate from the other campers

## 9. Safeguarding Response

Should a safeguarding concern arise then the following people can be contacted:

- **During camp:**
  - Safeguarding Lead: **Esther Hollands**
  - Deputy Safeguarding Lead: **Adam Laughton**
- **After camp:**
  - Safeguarding Lead: **David Hollands**  
m: 0787 947 6155      email David @Roothill.co.uk
  - Deputy Safeguarding Lead: **tbc**