

# **CHILD PROTECTION POLICY**

## **For**

# **PEACE NEWS SUMMER CAMP**

### **Policy Statement**

Peace News Summer Camp (PNSC) is organised by an independent organising committee with oversight from the Peace News Working Group.

PNSC organises a Kids Space which provides a children's space during workshop hours of the camp where parents/carers may leave their children (aged 14 or under) in order to attend the workshops.

The Kids Space is run by a Coordinator with assistance from named Assistants who are responsible for the children in this space during these times. Outside of workshop hours, parents are responsible for their children.

PNSC provides an environment for children where they can be safe and free from harm, and where they can enjoy themselves and take part in activities without fear of either adults or other children.

PNSC will not tolerate physical, sexual or emotional abuse, or other inappropriate behaviour, towards children, either by adults or by children, and will not hesitate to report possible criminal behaviour to the authorities.

All adults at PNSC are encouraged to take responsibility for the well-being of all the children at the camp at all times. Any suspected or observed inappropriate behaviour or abuse should be reported to the Kids Space Coordinator or Assistants who will follow the procedures set out below.

All adults at the PNSC will be made aware of this policy and it will be available to read in the Kids Space. A poster outlining expected behaviour will be put up in the Kids Space.

Children using the Kids Space will be shown the poster and informed that they should tell the Coordinator or Assistants if they feel that they have seen or experienced unwanted behaviour from either adults or children.

### **Procedure**

In the first instance, if an adult suspects that any form of abuse or inappropriate behaviour is occurring, they should report it to the Kids Space Coordinator or Assistant.

The Coordinator or Assistant will:

- complete an incident sheet
- inform and meet with the parents/carers of the child/children involved
- meet with the person/s reported to be responsible for the unacceptable behaviour
- make confidential enquiries to any other person named in the incident (witnesses etc)
- report to the PNSC organising group

The PNSC organising group will meet to determine the course of action:

- meet with the person/s reported to be responsible for the unacceptable behaviour and discuss:
  - why their behaviour was inappropriate
  - how it infringes the code of conduct towards children adopted by PNSC
  - possible courses of action, including the person/s leaving the camp
- if serious allegations are suspected or substantiated the unacceptable behaviour will be reported to the relevant authorities
- inform parents/carers and all persons named in the incident the course of action taken

A clear and confidential record shall be kept of all concerns and any action that is taken.

### **Kids Space conduct**

- \* Peace News Summer Camp Kids Space is here for you to make friends, be happy and enjoy yourself.
- \* We will treat people of all ages with respect and dignity and respect their privacy.
- \* Our language, tone of voice and body language will not intimidate or humiliate others.
- \* We will not discriminate on the basis of race, gender, disability, or sexual orientation.
- \* We will not discriminate against or exclude any other individual or group.

Adults will not use humiliation or physical punishment, or the threat of it, as a form of discipline.

Adults will not use physical force against children, except to restrain a child when there is a risk of serious harm to the child or to others. We will physically restrain children only as a last resort when necessary for the safety of the child or for the safety of others, and then only use the absolute minimum of force.

Adults will not touch a child or young person inappropriately in any way.

Adults will not let any child or young person involve them in excessive attention-seeking which is overtly sexual or physical in nature.

Adults will not engage in aggressive or sexually provocative games with children or make sexually suggestive comments to or about a child. Adults will not engage in sexual relations with children or young people under any circumstances.

- \* To be included in the Kids Space poster

*Agreed by the Peace News Working Group  
July 2013*