



Friends of Nunhead Cemetery

CHILD PROTECTION POLICY

- 1) Friends of Nunhead Cemetery (FONC) believes that children need to be protected from harm at all times.
- 2) We believe that every child should be valued, safe and happy. We want to ensure that children we have contact with know this and are empowered to tell us if they are suffering harm.
- 3) We want children who use, or have contact with, Friends of Nunhead Cemetery to enjoy what we have to offer safely.
- 4) We want parents or carers who use or attend our activities to be supported to care for their children in a way that promotes their child's health and wellbeing and keeps them safe.
- 5) We will achieve this by having effective child protection procedures and following National and Local Guidance.
- 6) If we discover or suspect a child is suffering from harm, we will notify the social services or police in order that they can be protected as necessary.
- 7) This child protection policy and procedure apply to all FONC volunteers and organisations affiliated to FONC, such as stall holders on Open Day.
- 8) We will review our policy and procedures at least every 2 years to ensure they are still relevant and effective.

CHILD PROTECTION PROCEDURES

PREVENTATIVE PRACTISES

- 1) There will be a named person for child protection who will be responsible for dealing with any concerns about the protection and welfare of children (under 18). That person is currently FONC Trustee Teresa Neary.
- 2) Volunteers participating in work days who are aged under 18 require a parent/guardian present who remains responsible for their welfare on site.
- 3) Young adults (16 – 18 years old) may be volunteering, for example, as part of a Duke of Edinburgh award. There is an expectation that, as far as possible, there should be more than one volunteer present with the young adult. However if there are two or more young adults present, this is not necessary.
- 4) Group tours led by a FONC member, such as school groups or youth groups, will have a 'responsible adult' present from the organisation who has the responsibility for the welfare of all children present. They are required to complete their own risk assessment to ensure they have adequate supervision of the group.
- 5) For FONC events such as the annual Open Day, tours and crypt events, parent/guardians are responsible for their children during any such FONC events. In the event of a child being lost, they will be brought to the FONC information desk or portacabin and reassured until the parent arrives.

- 6) FONC will endeavour to make Nunhead cemetery a safe and caring place for children to be, by having a code of conduct for all work volunteers. This is shared with volunteers and corporate volunteers as part of their induction and they are expected to comply with this. See 'Code of Conduct'.
- 7) FONC trustees will ensure that this policy is shared. All volunteers and corporate volunteers can access the information in this child protection policy on the FONC website. The link for this policy will be made available via the contacts page in the FONC newsletter. A hard copy will be accessible in the portacabin and the policy will also be brought to volunteers' attention at the volunteer induction.

RECOGNISING TYPES OF ABUSE

These are: Neglect; Physical abuse; Emotional abuse; Sexual abuse; or Online Abuse.

RESPONSIBILITIES

All FONC members who participate in FONC volunteering activities have a responsibility to be aware of this policy and to report any suspicions that they might have concerning child abuse.

WHAT TO DO IF YOU HAVE CONCERNS

1. About known volunteers:
The safety and welfare of children is of the utmost importance. It is the duty of all FONC members undertaking activities on behalf of FONC to protect each child from abuse and to be alert to the possibility of abuse. The vast majority of children who volunteer will be the responsibility of a parent/guardian. However, if a FONC volunteer has a low-level concern, they could initially seek advice from the FONC 'welfare officer' (currently Teresa Neary) or contact the Southwark Social Services Duty desk (Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH)).
2. Usually children are not FONC volunteers and are accessing the cemetery with their family. However, if a FONC volunteer sees a behaviour that could place the child at risk of harm they need to judge whether it is appropriate either to intervene to offer protection to a child and/or immediately contact the emergency services. It is not acceptable to take no action in such circumstances.
3. In emergency situations (e.g. where there is the risk or occurrence of severe physical injury), where immediate action is needed to safeguard the health or safety of the child or anyone else who may be at risk, the emergency services must be contacted.
4. If a FONC officer/trustee has been told about the allegation of abuse in confidence, from a young adult (16-18), they should attempt to gain the consent of the victim to make a referral to another agency. However, the gaining of the consent is not essential in order for information to be passed on. Consideration needs to be given to:
 - The scale of the abuse;
 - The risk of harm to others.
5. If there is any doubt about whether or not to report an issue to Social Services then it should be reported to the FONC 'welfare officer'.
6. Where a crime is taking place, has just occurred or is suspected, the police must be contacted immediately.

DBS CHECKS

Potential recruited FONC staff who may be in regular unsupervised contact with vulnerable adults will have a DBS check.

CONTACT DETAILS:

Teresa Neary – Welfare officer - 07921210922 (advice for low level concerns).

MASH (Multi- Agency Safeguarding Hub) - 020 7525 1921 or 020 7525 5000; Email – mash@southwark.gov.uk

Emergency services - 999

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