

**Thanet Primary Association for School Sport**

**(Thanet Passport)**

**Children’s Safeguarding Policy**

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Thanet Passport abides by the duty of care to safeguard and promote the welfare of children and young people and is committed to safeguarding practice that reflects statutory responsibilities, government guidance and complies with best practice requirements.

* We recognise the welfare of children is paramount in all the work we do and in all the decisions we take
* All children, regardless of age, disability, gender reassignment, race, religion or belief, sex, or sexual orientation have an equal right to protection from all types of harm or abuse
* Some children are additionally vulnerable because of the impact of previous experiences, their level of dependency, communication needs or other issues
* Working in partnership with schools, children, young people, their parents, carers and other agencies is essential in promoting young people’s welfare.

**Purpose:**

Thanet Passport will:

* Protect children and young people from harm who receive our services
* Provide children and young people and their families, staff and volunteers with an enjoyable and safe environment, protected from poor practice and abuse.
* Treat all suspicions and allegations of abuse seriously and deal with them swiftly and appropriately.

This policy applies to anyone working on behalf of Thanet Passport including committee members, paid staff, coaches, volunteers and students. Failure to comply with the policy and related procedures will be addressed without delay and may ultimately result in dismissal/exclusion from the organisation.

**Definitions**:

**The Children Act 1989 definition of a child is:** anyone who has not yet reached their 18th birthday, even if they are living independently, are a member of the armed forces or is in hospital.

**Child and Adult Abuse:** Children and adults may be vulnerable to neglect and abuse or exploitation from within their family and from individuals they come across in their daily lives. There are 4 main categories of abuse, which are: sexual, physical, emotional abuse, and neglect. It is important to be aware of more specific types of abuse that fall within these categories, they are:

* Bullying and cyberbullying
* Child sexual exploitation
* Child Criminal exploitation
* Child trafficking
* Domestic abuse
* Female genital mutilation
* Grooming
* Historical abuse
* Online abuse

**Safeguarding children:** Safeguarding children is defined in [Working Together to Safeguard Children 2018](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/working-together-to-safeguard-children--2) as:

* protecting children from maltreatment.
* preventing impairment of children’s health or development.
* ensuring that children are growing up in circumstances consistent with the provision of safe and effective care.
* taking action to enable all children to have the best outcomes.

**Procedures:**

Thanet Passport is an organisation that is run on behalf of Primary Schools in the Thanet District of Kent. Therefore all of Thanet Passport’s activities will be subject to, in the first instance, the existing Safeguarding policies, procedures and practices of each individual member school. This includes the use of social media, mobile phones and digital technology.

It is assumed that any staff and/or volunteers that schools send to accompany their children to Thanet Passport activities will have undergone the necessary Safeguarding checks and procedures.

Furthermore, Thanet Passport will also be subject to, and guided by, the Safeguarding requirements of external organisations and governing bodies, such as the NSPCC, Sport England Standards for Safeguarding and Protecting Children in Sport and the ESFA ESFA Safeguarding Children Policy.

Responsibility for implementing this policy and dealing with concerns lies with the School Games Organiser and the Passport Committee Chairman, whose contact details can be found at the foot of this policy.

In most cases concerns will be shared with the Child Welfare Officer at the school concerned. However, information may be shared with the Local Authority if a child is deemed to be at risk of harm or **the police contacted if they are in immediate danger, or a crime has been committed**.

This policy will be reviewed and updated annually.

**Safe Recruitment:**

Thanet Passport is committed to safe employment and recruitment practices that reduce the risk of harm to children from people unsuitable to work with, or to have contact with them.

All external providers and volunteers who are likely to have unsupervised and/or regular contact with children at Passport activities will be subject to the following checks:

* Scrutiny of identification documents
* Interview/meeting in person
* An enhanced DBS check

**Training and Awareness:**

Thanet Passport will ensure an appropriate level of safeguarding training is available to its volunteers and any relevant persons linked to the organisation who require it (e.g. sports coaches).

This requires them, as a minimum, to have awareness training that enables them to:

* Understand what safeguarding is and their role in safeguarding children.
* Recognise a child potentially in need of safeguarding and take action.
* Understand how to report a safeguarding concern.
* Understand dignity and respect when working with children.
* Have knowledge of this Safeguarding Children Policy.

**Confidentiality and Information Sharing:**

Thanet Passport expects all school staff, volunteers and external employees to maintain confidentiality. Information will only be shared in line with the General Data Protection Regulations (GDPR) and Data Protection.

A written record will be kept about any concerns raised regarding safeguarding. This must include details of the person(s) involved, the nature of the concern and the actions taken, decisions made and why they were made. All records must be signed and dated. All records must be securely and confidentially stored in line with General Data Protection Regulations (GDPR), as outlined in the Thanet Passport Data Privacy Notice.

**Important Contacts:**

**Organisation Lead for Safeguarding**Name: Stephanie Selsby (Thanet School Games Organiser)  
Email address: sgo@ursuline.kent.sch.uk  
Telephone number: 07854086775

**Deputy Organisation Lead for Safeguarding**Name: Gary Rees (Thanet Passport Committee Chairman)  
Email address: garybcrees@gmail.com  
Telephone number: 07974801550

**Police**  
Emergency – 999  
Non-emergency – 101

**NSPCC Helpline**  
0808 800 5000

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