

The Marlborough Brandt Group

Child Protection Policy

Application of this policy

This policy also applies to all staff, trustees, volunteers and anyone working (whether paid or on a voluntary basis) on behalf of the Marlborough Brandt Group (**MBG**), including the Wiltshire Global Education Centre (**WGEC**). It applies to those individuals when working in the UK or when visiting The Gambia. It also applies to visitors from The Gambia when the visit is arranged by MBG and where there will be access through MBG to children.

Purpose of this policy

The purpose of this policy is to:

- protect children and young people with whom MBG and WGEC works;
- provide staff and volunteers with the overarching principles that guide our approach to child protection; and
- protect our organisation, our staff and volunteers from accusations of misconduct.

Our child protection policy statement

MBG believes that a child or young person should never experience abuse of any kind. We have a responsibility to promote the welfare of all children and young people and to keep them safe. We are committed to practice in a way that protects them.

This policy seeks to ensure that MBG operates in an environment in which:

- children feel secure, are encouraged to talk, and are listened to; and
- staff and volunteers can make informed and confident responses to specific child protection issues.

Guiding principles of this policy

The welfare of the child is paramount, as enshrined in the Children Act 1989.

All children, regardless of age, culture, disability, gender, language, racial heritage, religious belief, sexual orientation or identity, have the right to protection from all types of harm or abuse.

Identifying abuse

Abuse is any treatment that causes harm. This can include physical or sexual or emotional abuse, also neglect, and bullying.

Implementation of this policy

We will seek to keep children and young people safe by:

- valuing them, listening to and respecting them;
- adopting child protection practices through procedures and a code of conduct for staff and volunteers;
- providing effective management for staff and volunteers through, where appropriate, supervision, support and training;
- ensuring that all MBG staff and volunteers who are likely to have access to children through MBG are given a copy of this policy and child protection code of conduct and procedures; [this will be recorded and the record retained at MBG's office;]
- recruiting staff and volunteers safely, ensuring all necessary checks are made (including DBS checks and references);
- sharing information about child protection and good practice with staff and volunteers, and where appropriate, with parents and children;
- sharing concerns with agencies who need to know, and involving parents and children appropriately; and
- ensuring that staff and volunteers working in The Gambia have an understanding of the cultural background to child protection issues and practices in that country.

Policy review

We are committed to reviewing our policy, procedures, good practice and code of conduct annually.

This policy was last reviewed on.....

Signed:

(Trustee responsible for child protection issues)