

Child Protection Policy Statement

Furness RDA emphasizes that young or vulnerable people have the right to be safe, secure and free from threat. We acknowledge that young people have the right to be treated with respect and for their concerns to be listened to and acted upon.

We do:

- Aim to be professional and to maintain the highest standards of personal behaviour at all times.
- Place safety and well being of rider and pony over and above performance.
- Encourage an open public environment and avoid situations where we are unobserved with any one rider. Presence of others is an insurance against false accusations.
- On trips/tours away from the stables, ensure that other adults are always present.
- Design and use training methods and programmes, which are wholly appropriate to the individual rider.
- In following these procedures, follow the Child Protection Guidelines in *Duty of Care: Guidelines for the Horse Industry* of the British Equestrian Federation.

We do not:

- Allow riding without parental consent, or allow unregistered helpers.
- Use inappropriate language or behaviour – eg, we avoid the subjects of sex, violence, drink, drugs, etc in conversation, even if meant only in fun.
- Do anything of a personal nature for a rider that they could do for themselves.
- Ignore signs of physical, behavioural, sexual or emotional abuse; neither would we assume that any injury is non-accidental with consultation.

We will report any concerns within the area of Child Protection (physical, sexual, emotional or neglect) in confidence and without delay to the Furness RDA Child Protection Officer, and/or to another appropriate responsible person, such as a head teacher, local social services team or the police.

We will not discuss an allegation or suspicion with another person, before the responsible person has been contacted.

When reporting an allegation or suspicion, we will record information, including relevant details (this includes the date and place of the disclosure, the nature of the allegation, any known information about the parties involved, the period of time to which the allegation relates and the degree to which the information is known to be fact, rather than opinion or hearsay).

Our Child Protection Officer is Jane Duckworth, telephone 01229 889235

March 2018