

Woodcraft Folk Code of Conduct

This Code of Conduct is to help volunteers and those responsible for the care of children and young people understand what acceptable and unacceptable standards of behaviour are.



No one must harm, or place at risk of harm, any child or young person.

1. You should **at all times** take responsibility for the care, welfare and safety needs of all children and young people in your care. Every adult has this responsibility for all children at all times.
2. You must be aware of the vulnerability of some groups of children to being isolated and hurt (e.g. children with disabilities and learning difficulties; children from Gypsy & Traveller communities; Black & Minority Ethnic children).
3. You must never be alone with children or young people (unless you are their parent or guardian). **At all times**, you must be close enough to another adult to be within sight and hearing range. If circumstances require that you should be alone with a child then you must ensure that another adult has agreed to this course of action, knows what you are doing and how long it will last.
4. You must comply with all Woodcraft Folk policies including Safeguarding, Health & Safety, and Aims, Principles and Programme.
5. You must listen attentively to any ideas and views a child wants to share with you. You must never dismiss what a child tells you as 'lies' or exaggeration.
6. You should not exaggerate or trivialise another member's concerns about a child or ignore an allegation or suspicion of abuse in the hope that it will either 'go away' or that 'someone else will deal with it'.
7. You must respond sensitively to children who seem anxious about participating in certain activities.
8. You should not allow a child, young person or adult to be bullied or harmed by anyone in the organisation.
9. You must never underestimate the contribution that you can make to the development of safe communities for children.

Taking action:

10. You must listen carefully to any child who 'tells you' (sometimes through drawings and behaviour as well as words) that they are being harmed. You must discuss this as soon as possible with the Local Safeguarding Officer in your Woodcraft Folk group or district. You must find an appropriate person to share any disclosures made to you or suspicions of abuse. This should normally be within 24 hours.
11. When you are concerned about a child's well-being, you should not discuss personal issues about them or their family with other people. Speak only to the designated Local Safeguarding Officer or Group Leader in your Woodcraft Folk group or district.
12. If you suspect that a child could be at risk of harm or abuse, you must speak to the designated Local Safeguarding Officer in your Woodcraft Folk group or district.
13. If you suspect that a child is experiencing bullying or harassment, you must speak to the designated Local Safeguarding Officer in your Woodcraft Folk group or district.

Respect for others:

14. You should work to develop an ethos where all people matter and are treated equally, and with respect and dignity.

15. You must respect a child's right to be involved in making choices and decisions which directly affect them.
16. You must respect a child's culture (for example their faith and religious beliefs).
17. You must respect a child's right to privacy and personal space.
18. You should not be drawn into any derogatory remarks or gestures in front of children or young persons.