



# Scouts

## 6th Dagenham (St Mary's)

Policy Name:	Safeguarding Policy
Governance Lead:	Stuart Bailey
Review Process:	Annually
Date of Last Review:	November 2025
Date of Next Review:	November 2026



Approved by Trustee Board:

## Introduction

6th Dagenham Scout Group ("the Group") is committed to providing a safe, welcoming, and supportive environment for all members, particularly children and young people. This Safeguarding Policy reflects our commitment to protect them from neglect, abuse, and exploitation, in line with The Scout Association's safeguarding principles, statutory obligations, and best practice.

## Scope & Purpose

This policy applies to all adults involved with the Group: trustees, leaders, volunteers, staff, parents/carers, and contractors. Its purpose is to:

- Safeguard children and young people from harm.
- Clarify roles, responsibilities, and expected behaviours regarding safeguarding.
- Explain how concerns are reported, managed, and escalated.

## Principles of Safeguarding

The Group operates under the following core principles:

- Child-centred approach – the welfare and voice of children are central.
- Dignity & respect – all members are treated fairly and inclusively.
- Openness & transparency – concerns can be raised without fear.
- Partnership working – collaboration with statutory and voluntary safeguarding agencies.
- Continuous learning – ongoing review and improvement of safeguarding practices.
- Equality & inclusion – safeguarding applies to all, regardless of identity or ability.

## Roles & Responsibilities

Role	Responsibility
All adults	Read and comply with this policy; report concerns.
Group Lead Volunteer (GLV)	Designated safeguarding lead; ensures procedures are followed.
Safeguarding Adviser(s)	Provide guidance, advice, and local support.
Trustees	Ensure safeguarding policy is implemented and effective.

### Safer Recruitment & Training

- Enhanced DBS checks required for all adult volunteers/staff working with youth members.
- Mandatory safeguarding training completed before engagement with youth.
- Refresher training at least every three years.
- Awareness of the Group Safeguarding Policy and responsibilities is required.

### Code of Conduct / Behaviour Standards

- Avoid being alone with children; always maintain visibility where possible.
- No physical, emotional, or sexual abuse.
- Respect boundaries and model positive behaviour.
- Report any concerning behaviour immediately to the GSL or Safeguarding Adviser.
- Follow guidance on alcohol and professional conduct.
- Communication via digital platforms must follow Scouts' safeguarding guidance; no private one-to-one messaging.

### Reporting & Responding to Concerns

- All concerns must be reported without delay, ideally within 24 hours.
- Use the GSL, Safeguarding Adviser, or *Scout Association* online reporting.
- Emergency situations: contact 999/local authorities first, then report to Scouts.
- Non-recent abuse reports are supported and will be handled sensitively.
- Escalation to statutory agencies will be done as required.

### Confidentiality & Information Sharing

- Handle safeguarding information with sensitivity and confidentiality.
- Share information only when necessary to protect a child, or as legally required.
- Compliance with GDPR and Data Protection Act principles, using exemptions for safeguarding.

### Support for Those Involved

- Emotional and practical support offered to those affected by safeguarding concerns.
- Access to local and *Scout Association* Safeguarding Team support.
- Assurance of a no-retaliation environment for anyone raising concerns.

### Technology & Online Safety

- Digital interaction must follow *Scout Association* safeguarding guidance.
- Private one-to-one messaging between adults and youth is prohibited.
- Photography, video, or audio recording must follow consent and safeguarding protocols.
- Online concerns must be reported immediately using the same reporting channels.

### **Review & Continuous Improvement**

- Policy reviewed annually or sooner if legislation, POR, or incident learning requires.
- Feedback from young people, parents, leaders, and volunteers is considered in reviews.
- Lessons learned from safeguarding incidents inform training and practice improvements.

### **Commitment to Inclusion & Equality**

- Safeguarding applies to all children and adults, regardless of background, identity, or ability.
- Reasonable adjustments are made for children or adults with additional needs.
- Promotes a culture of respect, safety, and openness.