



The National Vegetable Society

Registered Charity 1088979



SAFEGUARDING CHILDREN POLICY

Revision 1

1. Purpose

The purpose of this policy is to define how the National Vegetable Society operates to safeguard children in order to;

- protect them from harm.
- provide Officers, Trustees, members and volunteers with the overarching principles that guide our approach to safeguarding.

We recognise we have a duty to safeguard and we are committed to the protection and safety of children who are junior members and participate in our activities . We also have a duty to safeguard and support our members and volunteers.

This policy is a fundamental part of our governance responsibilities and priorities.

Trustee's responsibilities include ensuring that the NVS provides a safe environment and protects its members and volunteers, from abuse or harm of any kind.

We are committed to ensuring a safeguarding policy and practice that reflects our safeguarding responsibilities. The NVS recognises that it has responsibilities for the safety of children that are junior members of the Society.

We will fulfil our duty to report Serious Incidents, including safeguarding, as part of our governance and reporting responsibilities to the Charity Commission.

This policy needs to be read in conjunction with the safeguarding procedures and the wider policies and procedures for the NVS which when combined develop a comprehensive and more robust framework for safeguarding including policies and guidance for Code of Conduct

, Online Safeguarding and Code of Conduct, Whistleblowing, Complaints, Finance, Photography.

2. Definitions

☐ Children are defined as those persons aged under 18 years old.

☐ Junior member of NVS are those defined as under 18 years of age.

3. Persons affected

This policy applies to all members of the NVS, including the board of trustees, officers, judges, stewards members and volunteers.

4. Safeguarding policy

- We believe everyone has a responsibility to promote the welfare of all children, to keep them safe and to behave in a way that protects them.
- We recognise that while it is the responsibility of the relevant statutory agencies to determine whether or not abuse has taken place it is everyone's responsibility to report

any concerns and all trustees, officers, members and volunteers, will know how to recognise and report safeguarding concerns following NVS guidance.

- We recognise that all children whatever their age, ability, culture, disability, gender, language, racial origin, religious belief and/or sexual identity have equal rights to protection from abuse.
- We are committed to sharing information with relevant agencies should the need arise to safeguard children
- We recognise the need to protect children from harm both in person and/or from cyber/virtual risks.
- We ensure all of the NVS' operations and activities are designed and delivered with effective safeguarding in mind to protect children from abuse.

We will keep children safe by;

- Valuing, listening to and respecting them
- Ensuring they attend NVS activities only if accompanied by a parent, appropriate

adult or guardian.

- Recognising;
 - o The welfare of the child is paramount
 - o All children have the right to protection from abuse
 - o Safeguarding is everyone's responsibility

- Providing training, and support for all trustee's, officers and members, to know about and follow our safeguarding policy and procedures for safeguarding children .
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- Using our safeguarding policies and procedures to share and report all safeguarding concerns to the relevant officers within the NVS and external authorities swiftly and appropriately
- Using our safeguarding policies and procedures to share and manage any allegations of safeguarding concerns about Officers, Trustee's, members or volunteers against a children using the NVS policy and reporting process.

An allegation may relate to a person who volunteers with children who has:

- o behaved in a way that has harmed a child, or may have harmed a child;
- o possibly committed a criminal offence against or related to a child; or
- o behaved towards a child or children in a way that indicates they may pose a risk of harm to children.

- Recruiting and selecting volunteers safely where necessary; ensuring all necessary checks are made, including when to obtain a DBS check if required.
- Developing and implementing comprehensive online safety policies and procedures to safeguard junior members.
- Recording, storing and using information securely, in line with data protection legislation and guidance and our IT policies and procedures.

Version Control - Approval and Review

This policy will be reviewed annually and/or or following an incident, change in legislation, or other significant factors. It will also be reviewed as part of any safeguarding incident investigation, to test that it has been complied with and to see if any improvements might realistically be made to it.

Revision No.	Approval Date	Main Changes
1.0	14 th April 2026	Initial release