

# **RATTLEDEN COMMUNITY COUNCIL**

**Charity Number: 304936**

**The Charity is based at: The Pavilion, Birds Green, Bury St. Edmunds IP30 0RT**

## **Child and Vulnerable Adult Protection Policy**

Rattlesden Community Councils purpose is to provide indoor and outdoor recreational facilities to the residents of Rattlesden and nearby villages and does this through the provision of a Pavilion, playing field and children's playground

Rattlesden Community Council recognises that it has a duty of care towards children and vulnerable adults and acknowledges its responsibilities to keep them safe while engaged in activities in the Pavilion, on the playing field and in the playground. This includes the children of adults using the facilities.

This policy is intended to set out the overall principles which guide our approach to protecting children and vulnerable adults. Rattlesden Council has adopted this policy and expects every adult working or helping on the premises both to support and comply with it. Consequently this policy will apply to the Trustees, Committee members or volunteers and anyone on the premises for its intended purpose.

The principles are:

1. Empowerment: that people are supported and encouraged to make their own decisions with informed consent
2. Prevention: it is better to act before harm occurs
3. Proportionality: the least intrusive response appropriate to the risk detected
4. Protection: support for those in greatest need
5. Partnership: Communities and citizens have a part to play in preventing, detecting and reporting neglect and abuse
6. Accountability: Ownership and transparency of the safeguarding practice.

Rattlesden Community Council is committed to the welfare of children and vulnerable adults and opposes all forms of abuse. This policy is intended to protect children and vulnerable adults who may avail themselves of the facilities on offer.

The guidelines as outlined below in this policy, aim to protect both children and vulnerable adults from abuse, and also Rattlesden Community Council Trustees, Committee Members or Volunteers from false accusation of inappropriate behaviour or abuse.

Nearly every child grows up in a safe and happy environment and it is important not to over emphasise the risks but there are situations where children or vulnerable adults need protection including but not limited to:

- Grooming
- Sexual abuse
- Coercive control
- Physical & Emotional abuse and neglect
- Inappropriate supervision
- Bullying
- Unsafe environments and activities
- Crime and exploitation

### **Overarching Protection**

Rattlesden Community Council recognises that the welfare of the child or vulnerable adult is paramount. That all have a right to equal protection from harm regardless of their race, gender, gender identification, sex or sexual identification, religion or religious belief, disability or age, and that some are more vulnerable, whether children or vulnerable adults, because of their circumstances, prior experiences, communication and other needs or dependencies.

### **Safeguarding Children and Vulnerable Adults at Events/Activities**

There are four kinds of events/activities:

1. Those open to adults and children
2. Those for children accompanied by a parent or guardian
3. Those for unaccompanied children
4. Those open to adults only

Where events/activities are open to adults and children, or where children require to be accompanied by a parent or guardian in order to participate, Rattlesden Community Council expects the adult, parent or guardian providing the permission or accompanying the child to take reasonable care of the child's safety and welfare, and to exercise reasonable discretion in granting permissions which will be appropriate to the child's age and disposition.

It is not envisaged that children will have access to the Pavilion without the presence of adults.

It is envisaged that children will sometimes access the playing field e.g. to exercise and that children will also avail themselves of the playground facilities on their own.

To this end both the playing field and playground are regularly maintained and the playground area intended for use by younger children is securely fenced.

To the extent that activities on the premises require adult participants or adult leaders to undergo checks, the required level, if any, will reflect the degree and frequency of unsupervised access given to other people's children.

Concerns, if any, should be reported to the Designated Officer Ann Tate at 01449737549 (anntate@live.co.uk)

Allegations will be appropriately reviewed and the risks considered.

**Actions:**

- Listen to what is said and accept what is said
- Offer reassurance, where appropriate
- Respond to and report actual or suspected concerns, suspicions or violations regarding any kind of abuse or exploitation. Do not promise confidentiality
- Do not interrogate – it is not our responsibility to investigate
- Always work in an open environment and avoid being alone with one child. Ensure any private conversation with a child is in plain view of others.
- Keep a written record of allegations made
- Ensure that all authorised activities are safe and risks have been assessed in advance.
- Keep a written record of any injury that occurs, along with the details of any treatment given.
- Where possible, obtain written parental or guardian consent if the need arises to administer emergency first aid and/or other medical treatment.
- No photography and videography of children or vulnerable adults is permitted at any time

This policy was adopted by Rattlesden Community Council on 14<sup>th</sup> May 2025  
Policy review in May 2026