



Child Protection and Safeguarding Policy

OUT ON THE DOWNS (Trading name of OUTDOORS ON THE DOWNS LTD)

1. Policy Statement

OUT ON THE DOWNS is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of all children, young people, and vulnerable adults. We believe that:

- The welfare of the child is paramount.
- All children, regardless of age, disability, gender, racial heritage, religious belief, sexual orientation, or identity, have the right to equal protection from all types of harm or abuse.
- Safeguarding is everyone's responsibility.

2. Scope

This policy applies to all staff, volunteers, contractors, and partners involved in delivering activities under OUT ON THE DOWNS, including, but not limited to, DofE expeditions, Lowland Expedition Leader (LEL) activities, Bikeability training, and school-based outdoor education.

3. Legal and Regulatory Framework

This policy aligns with:

- DofE Safeguarding Policy and AAP Licensing Requirements
- OEAP National Guidance 7.1b for DofE Expeditions
- Bikeability Delivery Guide and Safeguarding Standards
- Keeping Children Safe in Education (KCSIE) 2024
- Children Act 1989 and 2004
- Working Together to Safeguard Children (2023)

4. Key Safeguarding Principles

- - Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL): A trained DSL and Deputy DSL are appointed and their contact details are shared with all stakeholders.
- Safer Recruitment: All staff and volunteers undergo enhanced DBS checks and reference vetting.
- Training: All staff receive safeguarding training appropriate to their role, updated annually.
- Code of Conduct: All personnel must adhere to a professional code of conduct and boundaries.
- Whistleblowing: A clear and confidential process is in place for reporting concerns.

5. Roles and Responsibilities

- - DSL: Oversees safeguarding implementation, responds to concerns, and liaises with external agencies.
- All Staff: Must report any safeguarding concerns immediately to the DSL.
- Participants and Parents: Are informed of safeguarding procedures and how to raise concerns.

6. Risk Management and Supervision

- - Expeditions and Activities: All activities are risk assessed, including safeguarding risks. Remote supervision protocols are in place for DofE expeditions.
- Staff Ratios: Comply with DofE, LEL, and school guidelines for supervision.
- Overnight Stays: Separate sleeping arrangements for adults and young people, with appropriate gender considerations.

7. Reporting and Responding to Concerns

Serious concerns will be referred to the Local Authority Designated Officer (LADO), Children's Social Care, or the police, as appropriate.

8. Information Sharing and Confidentiality

Information is shared on a need-to-know basis in line with GDPR and safeguarding legislation. Consent is sought where appropriate, unless doing so would place a child at risk.

9. Monitoring and Review

This policy is reviewed annually or following any safeguarding incident. Feedback from staff, participants, and partners informs policy updates.

10. First Aid Provision

OUT ON THE DOWNS ensures that all activities are supported by appropriately trained first aiders in line with HSE and awarding body requirements. First aid provision is considered a key safeguarding measure and is included in all risk assessments.

Trainers and assessors delivering first aid qualifications must meet the competency requirements set out by the relevant awarding body and maintain up-to-date CPD and quality assurance records.

11. Contact Details

Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL): Ben Dawson

Email: safeguarding@outonthedowns.co.uk

11a. Local Authority Contact details

Kent

- **Service Name:** LESAS (LADO Education Safeguarding Advisory Service)
- Kent Integrated Children's Services Portal [Kent Integrated Children's Services Portal](#)
- **Urgent Contact:** 03000 41 11 11
- **Email (general enquiries):** lesasenquiries@kent.gov.uk

Essex

- **Phone:** 03330 139 797
- **Email:** lado@essex.gov.uk
- Essex LADO Page [Essex LADO Page](#)

Surrey

- **Phone:** 0300 123 1650 (Option 3)
- **Email:** LADO@surreycc.gov.uk
- Surrey LADO Page [Surrey LADO Page](#)

Buckinghamshire

- **Phone:** 01296 382 070
- **Secure Email:** secure-LADO@buckinghamshire.gov.uk

West Sussex

- **Email:** LADO.Admin@westsussex.gov.uk
- West Sussex SCP [West Sussex SCP](#)

West Berkshire (covers part of Berkshire)

- **Email:** LADO.LADO@westberks.gov.uk

Bristol

- **Email:** LADO@bristol.gov.uk
- **Phone:** 0117 903 7795
- Referral Form & Guidance [Referral Form & Guidance](#)

Bath and North East Somerset

- **Email:** LADO@bathnes.gov.uk
- **Phone:** 01225 396810
- LADO Information [LADO Information](#)

Wiltshire

- **Email:** LADO@wiltshire.gov.uk
- **Phone:** 0300 456 0108
- Wiltshire LADO Info [Wiltshire LADO Info](#)

Dorset

- **Email:** LADO@dorsetcouncil.gov.uk
- **Phone:** 01305 221122
- Referral Form & Info [Referral Form & Info](#)

Hampshire

- **Referral Process:** Submit an initial enquiry form via their website
- Hampshire LADO Info [Hampshire LADO Info](#)

12. Related Policies

This policy should be read in conjunction with the Health and Safety Policy, Equal Opportunities Policy, and Complaints Procedure Policy.