

CHILD PROTECTION POLICY

[Back to Policy Page](#)

1. INTRODUCTION

The Ashmolean Museum welcomes visitors of all ages and abilities.

Children come to the Ashmolean either for a visit to the galleries or to attend a planned activity. Most children visit the Museum with their own teacher, parent or carer. They participate, with an adult who knows them, in a tour, gallery activity, handling session, family drop-in session or storytelling event. Occasionally children attend a programme, such as a holiday activity, without a carer. These are led by at least three trained members of the Education Service, sometimes joined by an artist or other professional. This policy covers all of these situations, in addition to any activity that takes place outside the Museum and which is led by Museum staff or volunteers.

The Museum has a responsibility to ensure a safe and healthy environment for all children and vulnerable adults. This policy is written to ensure that all children are guaranteed appropriate and safe treatment in all circumstances in the Museum. While it is aimed specifically to protect children from abuse, it should be considered to encompass a wide meaning of health and safety. All staff and volunteers are responsible for supporting this policy.

The protection provided to children under the age of 18 by this policy will also be provided to vulnerable adults.

POLICY

The Museum will strive to create a healthy, positive and safe environment for all children who visit. The Museum has a responsibility to ensure children's physical safety, which is covered by the general safety policies and procedures of the Museum. Children will also be protected from abuse, including physical, emotional or sexual abuse, bullying or neglect.

We will endeavour to accomplish this by:

Following appropriate and careful recruiting and selection procedures to ensure the suitability of staff and volunteers who are applying to work directly with children. This will include careful checking of references.

Providing training in appropriate treatment of children to staff and volunteers who come in contact with them. They will be made aware of child protection issues as appropriate. Children will be treated with respect, dignity and an understanding of their needs, without any advantage being taken of their weaker position.

Establishing procedures which will minimise any opportunity for abuse. This will include staff and volunteers avoiding private or unobserved situations with children.

Establishing guidelines for appropriate treatment of children, including respect, careful listening and behaving in a way that will avoid any misunderstanding of motives or actions.

Establishing procedures for reporting any suspected abuse. This could include physical or verbal evidence that a child has been abused, either before arrival at the Museum or during their visit, or allegations made by a child about abuse. Cases of injury will be reported following the established procedure of completing an incident form, which is submitted to the Administrator. In the case of a child, the incident will also be reported to the Child Protection Officer.

Appointing a Child Protection Officer who will be responsible for establishing appropriate procedures for reporting concerns to the appropriate authorities and for training and other procedures to support this policy.?? This person will be responsible for maintaining confidential records regarding any investigation or report.? He or she will also keep informed on current legislation and other matters relating to Child Protection.

REVIEW

This policy will be reviewed each year in June by the Deputy Director, the Clore Education Officer, the Personnel Officer and the Administrator. ?Changes will be made as deemed appropriate and in the light of current circumstances.? Specific procedures may be added as needed and will become part of the policy.