

European Recorder Teachers' Association (ERTA UK) Child Safeguarding and Protection Policy

Policy Statement

The European Recorder Teachers' Association (ERTA UK Branch) is a non profit making educational organisation that represents the professional interests of UK based recorder teachers and players. ERTA acknowledges it has a responsibility for the safety of children taking part in its activities and therefore coming under its temporary care. It also recognises that good child protection policies and procedures are of benefit to everyone involved with its work.

ERTA aims:

- To establish and maintain an environment where young people feel secure, are encouraged to talk, and are listened to when they have a worry or concern
- To ensure that young people know that there are adults in the organisation whom they can approach if they are worried

The purpose of this policy is:

- To inform members, parents and committee members about ERTA's responsibility for safeguarding young people
- To enable everyone to have a clear understanding of how these responsibilities should be carried out

ERTA is committed to practices which protect children from harm. For the purpose of this policy, ERTA members may come into contact with young people via conferences, competitions or other educational events. Therefore we:

- recognise and accept our responsibilities with regard to safeguarding
- develop awareness of the issues which can cause children harm
- report any concerns following the specified procedure

ERTA will endeavour to safeguard children by:

- adopting child protection procedures and a code of practice for all who work on behalf of the organisation
- reporting any concerns to the authorities
- carefully following procedures for recruitment and selection of paid staff and volunteers
- providing effective management for paid staff and volunteers through support and training

ERTA is also committed to reviewing its Child Protection Policy and Code of Practice at regular intervals.

All members of ERTA accept responsibility for the welfare of children who come into contact with ERTA in connection with its tasks and functions. members will report any concerns about a child or about staff behaviour, using the procedures laid down.

The ERTA Chair is designated as being responsible for safeguarding and will take action following any expression of concern. In addition, the ERTA Chair has received the relevant training and knows how to make appropriate referrals to child protection agencies.

The lines of responsibility in respect of child protection are clear.

All those who are involved with children on behalf of ERTA should adhere to the Code of Practice in relation to children.

Information relating to any allegation or disclosure will be clearly recorded as soon as possible,

The Children Act 1989 states that the “welfare of the child is paramount”. This means that considerations of confidentiality which might apply to other situations should not be allowed to override the right of children to be protected from harm. However, every effort should be made to ensure that confidentiality is maintained for all concerned when an allegation has been made and is being investigated.

ERTA’s policy on duty of care to children will be referred to or included in recruitment, training, moderation and policy materials where appropriate, and the policies are openly and widely available to staff and actively promoted within the organisation.

A culture of mutual respect between children and those who represent ERTA in all its activities will be encouraged.

All members of ERTA, paid or unpaid, with unsupervised access to children will be checked appropriately.

It is part of ERTA’s acceptance of its responsibility of duty of care towards children that anybody who encounters child protection concerns in the context of their work on behalf of ERTA will be fully supported when they report their concerns in good faith.

Code of Practice

Definitions of Abuse

There are four categories of abuse (as defined under the 1989 Children’s Act).

In addition there may be occasions when a young person will disclose **historic abuse** (either sexual or physical), which occurred in the past during their childhood. This information needs to be treated in exactly the same way as a disclosure or suspicion of current child abuse. The reason for this is that the abuser may still represent a risk to children.

1. Physical Abuse

This includes:

- Physical chastisement
- Deliberate, malicious injuries
- Inappropriate restraint

- Lack of supervision resulting in accidents causing harm

2. Neglect

This is defined as persistent failure to meet a young person's needs (physical and psychological).

It includes the failure to protect a child from exposure to any kind of danger resulting in the significant impairment of a child's health or development.

3. Emotional Abuse

This includes:

- Persistent ridicule
- Rejection
- Humiliation
- An atmosphere of fear and intimidation
- Inappropriate expectations
- Bullying and scapegoating
- Low warmth and high criticism

4. Sexual Abuse

This includes:

- Giving a child access to pornographic materials
- Involving a child in the sexual activity of adults
- Touching a child or talking to a child in sexually explicit ways
- Speaking to a child about sex in ways that are inappropriate for the child and which seek to gratify the needs of someone else

When to be Concerned

All staff should be concerned about a young person if he or she;

- Has an injury which is not typical of a young person's bumps and scrapes
- Regularly has unexplained injuries or frequently has injuries
- Gives confused or conflicting explanations of how injuries were sustained
- Exhibits significant changes in behaviour, performance or attitude.
- Indulges in sexualised behaviour which is unusually explicit or inappropriate for his or her age
- Discloses an experience in which he/she may have been harmed

If someone discloses at an ERTA event that they are being abused, upon receiving the information:

- React calmly
- Reassure the child that they were right to tell and that they are not to blame
- Take what the child says seriously
- Be careful not to ask leading questions
- Refrain from promising confidentiality
- Inform the child/young person as to what will happen next
- Make a full and written record of what has been said as soon as possible and avoid delay in passing on the information

A report should include:

- The child's known details, including name, date of birth, address and contact numbers
- Information as to whether the person making the report is expressing their own concerns or those of someone else
- The nature of the allegation, including dates, times and any other relevant information
- A clear distinction between what is fact and what is opinion or hearsay
- A description of any visible bruising or other injuries, as well as any indirect signs, such as behavioural changes
- Details of any witnesses to the incident(s)
- The child's account, if it can be given, of what has happened and how any bruising or other injuries occurred
- Accounts from others, including other ERTA members, where relevant