

## **MERMS CHILD & VULNERABLE ADULT PROTECTION POLICY**

A child for the purposes of this document is any person under the age of 18. Information in this document is based on the Department for Education's statutory guidance, Keeping Children Safe in Education 2018. Vulnerable Adults are people who are 18 years of age or older who are unable to provide for their own needs and protect themselves against abuse or serious exploitation due to impairment of mental, physical and emotional function. Information in this regard is based on The Care Act 2014 and the Care and Support statutory guidance.

All children and vulnerable adults, whatever their age, culture, disability, gender, racial origin, religious belief and/or sexual identity, have the right to protection from abuse.

All suspicions and allegations of inappropriate behaviour will be taken seriously and investigated promptly and, where necessary will be reported to the police or other appropriate authority

The key objectives of this policy are for all our members to:

- have an overview of Child & Adult safeguarding
- be clear about their responsibility to safeguard all vulnerable persons
- ensure the necessary actions are taken where a person with care and support needs is deemed to be at risk

### **Code of Practice and Procedures**

Situations for abuse of children or vulnerable adults can be minimised and adult members protected from false allegations by the promotion of good practice.

All members shall ensure that they do not spend any time alone with a child or vulnerable adult; do not take photographs without the explicit consent of a relative, chaperon or carer and do not engage in any explicit, vulgar or inappropriate language or conversation. Members shall treat all allegations whether from the vulnerable adult or child or a third party as serious

An adult may be unable to protect themselves from harm or exploitation due to many reasons, including their mental or physical incapacity, sensory loss or physical or learning disabilities. This could be an adult who is usually able to protect themselves from harm but maybe unable to do so because of an accident, disability, frailty, addiction or illness. Individuals in any of these categories should be accompanied by a supervising adult and should only be allowed on the railway or as a visitor if the supervising adult and the MERMS representative considers it safe to do so.

Action will always be taken and recorded on the form is shown at Appendix A

## **Concerning visitors to Society events and activities**

Children or vulnerable adults will not be accepted on site unless either accompanied by a parent or guardian. No Member shall ever be in a one-to-one situation with a visiting child.

Except in emergencies, or to prevent danger, physical contact with children shall be avoided. Parents or guardians will be asked to lift children on and off rides and, where possible, accompany them on the ride.

Clear and concise instructions will be announced before the commencement of each ride.

If any person puts themselves in possible danger by, for example, attempting to touch equipment, being in a hazardous position adjacent to miniature railways or road locomotives or running alongside them, their parents or guardians will be advised. The potential dangers will be pointed out and the individual/s asked to supervise appropriately.

If any non-member enters an operating area they will be instructed to leave and advised of the reason for the instruction.

In the event of distress or injury, the parent or guardian will be expected to take the initiative to console and administer initial treatment.

Nothing above shall preclude a member from taking timely action to prevent an accident or injury or to act to treat a life-threatening injury.

No allegations a person makes will go unchallenged or unrecorded; action will always be taken.

Any allegation made against a member the Society will be reported immediately to the Secretary and, if necessary, Social Services will be advised.

Annex A

**Safeguarding Incident involving a Child or Vulnerable Adult**

Date	Reporting Person	Name of Child or Vulnerable Adult	Names of other Persons involved
Details of occurrence			
Action taken			