

	POLICY	Document Number: SGPo01
	SAFEGUARDING CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE POLICY	Version number: 5 Updated: February 2025 Next Review Date: February 2026

v.	Latest Amendment Details	Authorised by
5	Policy has been reviewed with reference to other YST policies and procedures.	Board of Trustees (through NGR – 12 February 2025)

Foreword

At the Youth Sport Trust (YST) we have a proud track record of delivering major events for thousands of children and young people every year. Critical to our success is ensuring that we always provide a safe, friendly and enjoyable experience for children, which puts the welfare of the children as the top priority. We know that everyone working with children is in a position of trust and we take this responsibility very seriously. By virtue of their position they must act in the best interests of children in their care.

This updated policy document includes recent statutory guidance for all organisations providing services to children. It sets out how the YST and individuals should work together to safeguard, encourage and promote the welfare of children in accordance with the Children Acts, 1989 and 2004 and Working Together to Safeguard Children 2023.

Adopting and implementing this policy is a key requirement for the YST.



Ali Oliver
Chief Executive, Youth Sport Trust

Youth Sport Trust

Youth Sport Trust (YST) is an independent charity devoted to changing young people's lives through sport. We are passionate about helping all young people unlock their full potential through high quality, inclusive and innovative physical education and sport opportunities. For nearly 30 years we have developed a unique way of maximising the power of sport to grow young people, schools and communities through the development of qualities such as creativity, aspiration, resilience and empathy.

We place young people at the very centre of our approach and aim to pioneer innovative ways to engage and motivate today's young people to participate in sport, and for them to realise the positive impact it can have on their lives.

Through the power of sport, we focus on the following six key tactics that underpin everything we do:

1. **Equip educators** to rebuild wellbeing and **level up life chances** of *young people* most affected by Covid-19, and those suffering from the effect of inequalities.
2. **Empower young people** by unleashing a *nationwide community of young leaders*, who harness the positive power of play and sport to improve wellbeing, **build friendships, and foster understanding**.
3. **Unite a movement of organisations** to *reclaim play and sport* at the heart of every school, and make it **fun for everyone**.
4. **Mobilise influencers in all areas of public life** to make the *decline of physical activity levels and human connection in a digital age* matters of national concern.
5. Help **families** understand and champion their children's physical literacy and its importance to a healthy and **happy childhood**.
6. **Change from within** by **increasing our impact** on, connection with, and *relevance to a changing world*.

We do this by developing innovative sport, PE and education projects and interventions to support young people. These are delivered in partnership with corporate sponsors, government, sport and education stakeholders, as well as schools. These interventions range from: running training camps for the next generation of Olympic hopefuls; using sport as a way of helping youngsters who may be struggling at school; to introducing new ways for young people to lead and volunteer in sport in their community. Our work is UK-wide, but we also undertake an impressive international programme of work.

YST supports schools to use sport to raise standards, achievement and attainment across all subject areas. It is our belief that PE and school sport can make a major contribution to many agendas – educational achievement, public health, community cohesion and, of course, sporting performance at the highest level. The way we work, and the organisational values are underpinned by a core set of values - trust, integrity, courage, inclusion, collaboration and responsibility. We know that our work changes young people's lives, and all at YST are committed to this goal.

For more information on the Youth Sport Trust and the range of programmes we deliver visit our website on www.youthsporttrust.org

Safeguarding Policy

“Every child and young person who participates in sport has the right to feel secure and be safe whilst experiencing a spirit of adventure, fun, excitement and a sense of belonging.”

Introduction

The Youth Sport Trust (YST) believes that all children and young people have the right to be engaged and inspired by sport. We also believe that all children and young people involved in sport should enjoy it safely, securely and protected from harm. Therefore, we are committed to ensuring that anyone working, or volunteering on behalf of YST, understands their responsibilities and demonstrates best practice in safeguarding children and young people in their care. This policy is mandatory and applies to all individuals involved with YST activities and events whether in a paid or voluntary capacity, parents, sport and education stakeholders, schools or corporate partners.

YST acknowledges it has a duty of care to safeguard and promote the welfare of children and young people and is committed to ensuring safeguarding practice reflects statutory responsibilities, legislation government guidance and complies with best practice and the requirements of the Charity Commission, NSPCC Child Protection in Sport Unit and the Quality Standard ISO9001.

Everyone at YST has a responsibility and a role to play in safeguarding children and young people and it is important to understand that safeguarding should not sit in isolation from all other activities within YST. Safeguarding is an integral part of all our work from policy and programme development through to the direct interaction with children and young people at the events we deliver, this also includes any events where we support our partners. We actively encourage and promote our safeguarding policy, procedures and good practice guidance to all involved in YST activities and events.

Children and young people are referred to throughout the Safeguarding Policy, Procedures and Guidelines for clarity this relates to anyone under the age of 18 years.

Our principles

Children and young people should never experience abuse of any kind. The YST are committed to the following principles:

- The welfare and wellbeing of children and young people is paramount in all the work we do and in all the decisions we take.
- All children and young people have the right to be protected from harm regardless of their age, disability, gender identity, race, religion or belief, sex, or sexual orientation.
- We will ensure all children and young people feel valued, listened to and respected.
- All individuals working with children and young people must champion the right of every individual to participate in sport.
- All children and young people who participate in sport have the right to feel secure and be safe whilst experiencing a spirit of adventure, fun, excitement, and a sense of belonging.
- We support all children and young people we work with to build relationships with each other based on openness, honesty, mutual trust, and respect in accordance with our Code of Ethics and Codes of Conduct.
- All individuals will respond to a safeguarding concern or issue in line with the YST Safeguarding Children and Young People Policy, Procedures, and Guidelines.
- We will ensure all concerns, allegations and suspicions of harm and poor practice will be taken seriously and responded to swiftly, fairly, and appropriately.
- We will ensure robust safeguarding arrangements and procedures are in operation and promoted through our policies, procedures, and the Code of Ethics and Codes of Conduct.
- We will ensure that confidential, detailed and accurate records of all safeguarding concerns are maintained and securely held in accordance with our Data Protection Policy and the Records and Retention Policy.
- Provide children and young people with information, skills and support to help them keep themselves safe and report any concerns.

- All staff and volunteers will receive safeguarding training and development opportunities relevant to their role.
- All partner organisations and agencies working with the YST will agree a mutual approach to safeguarding.
- YST recognises the roles and responsibilities of statutory agencies in relation to safeguarding children and young people and promoting their welfare. We are committed to working together with Local Safeguarding Partners and complying with their procedures.

Our Responsibilities

YST recognises its responsibilities to protect and safeguard children and young people.

We will:

- Provide an environment that is healthy, safe and secure.
- Promote a culture where everyone involved with YST treat each other with respect and are comfortable about sharing concerns.
- Appoint a Lead Safeguarding Officer with overall responsibility for safeguarding.
- Appoint an individual with safeguarding responsibilities at all activities or events.
- Appoint a nominated Board Safeguarding and Welfare Champion.
- Work in partnership with key safeguarding stakeholders and other Sport and Education Partners.
- Establish a safe recruitment process for YST led activities and events which includes the management of the criminal record checking process.
- Provide appropriate induction and training and support for all employees, workers, trustees, volunteers, partner organisations and agencies where relevant.
- Ensure all safeguarding concerns are responded to in line with YST policies, procedures and guidelines and act when concerns are raised regarding employees, workers, trustees, volunteers and consultants.
- Take disciplinary action against those who are found to be in breach of this Policy.
- Ensure consistency and share good practice through the YST Safeguarding Strategy Group and monitor and evaluate the implementation of the Safeguarding Children and Young People Policy.

Monitoring of the Policy

The YST Safeguarding Policy has been approved by the YST Board and will be regularly monitored with a full Policy review taking place annually. The following may also evoke a review of the policy:

- Any changes in legislation, government guidance or safeguarding best practice guidance.
- Any changes in governance of YST.
- The result of any review of policies and procedures, significant change or event.

The policy accompanies YST's Safeguarding Children and Young People Procedures; Equality and Diversity Policy; Dignity at Work, Bullying and Harassment Policy; Safeguarding Adults Policy and Procedures; Recruitment & Selection Policy; Safeguarding Concerns Referrals Procedure; Disciplinary Procedure; Complaints and Process Errors Procedure; Social Media Policy; Code of Ethics and Codes of Conduct and our Whistleblowing Policy.

Implementation

YST are committed and engaged to maintain the CPSU Safeguarding Standards to ensure we address our core safeguarding responsibilities.

YST Safeguarding Children and Young People Policy, Procedures and Guidelines are intended to be a UK wide policy and have been written with this purpose in mind. YST recognises that there are legislative differences across the UK's four nations, each with their own child protection system and laws to help protect children from abuse and neglect. Each nation has a framework of legislation, guidance, and practice to identify children who are at risk of harm, take action to protect those children and prevent further abuse occurring. However, the guiding principles underpinning legislation remain the same.

We encourage everyone involved in the YST to make themselves aware of legislation across the four nations. For more information, please refer to [Child protection system in the UK | NSPCC Learning](#)

YST's implementation of their Safeguarding Children and Young People Policy, Procedures and Guidelines will be led by the YST Safeguarding Strategy Group, a representative group from across YST, chaired by a member of the Senior Leadership Team.