

## **TRENT VALLEY GLIDING CLUB (TVGC)**

### **CHILD PROTECTION POLICY**

**This Child Protection Policy has been drawn up in line with the Children's MARS Guidance and Checklist for Child protection Policies – Voluntary and Community Organisations.**

TVGC recognises that all children have a right to protection from abuse. TVGC takes seriously its responsibility to protect and safeguard the welfare of children and young people. We will:

- Respond swiftly and appropriately to all suspicions or allegations of abuse, and provide parents and children with the opportunity to voice their concerns.
- Have a system for dealing with concerns about possible abuse.
- Maintain good links with statutory child care authorities.

### **THE POLICY**

TVGC recognises that many children and young people today are the victims of neglect, and physical, sexual and emotional abuse. Accordingly, TVGC has adopted the following policy guidelines. The policy sets out agreed guidelines relating to responding to allegations of abuse, including those made against members. TVGC recognises the need to build constructive links with the local child care agencies. These guidelines have been prepared in accordance with the Children's MARS Child Protection Procedures. They will be kept under review and be supported by appropriate training.

The policy applies to all members of TVGC and who come directly into contact with children. Every individual has a responsibility to inform the designated person in respect of child protection or the deputy of concerns relating to safeguarding children. The designated person must decide if the concerns should be communicated to children and family services or the police

Document Title	Revision Date	Next Review Date	Page Number	Owner
202312 TVGC MARS CPP	January 2024	January 2025	Page 1 of 8	Safeguarding Lead

## TVGC SAFEGUARDING VALUES AND PRINCIPLES

Whilst our core business is the provision of safe affordable gliding, we will work in the best interests of children and young people who come into contact with our club.

Children and young people will be listened to and we will hear what they have to say.

We will support children and young people to safely enjoy the sport of gliding in a friendly and inclusive club.

We will respect the individuality of all people who use the facilities of our club.

We will ensure that children from a minority community are welcome and treated with friendship and respect.

Children with disabilities will always have a voice and we will act upon their concerns or anxieties

We will always act of any suspicions that a child may be suffering abuse.

Our members will treat other members but particularly children and young people with consideration and respect.

We will be open to learning and be willing to develop responding to best evidence and best practice.

We will work in an open and honest manner with children, young people, members and any agencies to ensure that our airfield is a safe place for all those who use it.

## TVGC CHILD PROTECTION PROCEDURES

Everyone who comes into contact with children during club activities has the responsibility to protect them from harm. Therefore, we believe that all children who use our facilities should be safe and prevented from coming to any harm. In order to achieve this, TVGC will consider the issues related to child protection.

- When selecting members to become instructors the Chairman and Chief Flying Instructor will assess their suitability for working with children.
- Since August 2017 all TVGC instructors must hold a current DBS certificate.
- TVGC will appoint a designated person to be responsible for these issues on their behalf. (Safeguarding Officer)
- Training is to be undertaken in basic Child Protection procedures by the designated person. This training will be cascaded to members as appropriate.

Document Title	Revision Date	Next Review Date	Page Number	Owner
202312 TVGC MARS CPP	January 2024	January 2025	Page 2 of 8	Safeguarding Lead

- Where there are concerns that a child has suffered or is at risk of suffering, significant harm, members have a duty to share their concerns with the designated person, who will take the appropriate action.
- All matters concerning child protection issues will be treated with confidentiality.
- TVGC has provided guidance notes for members outlining their child protection responsibilities.

**Any child protection concerns should be discussed with the designated person.**

## **DEFINITIONS AND PROCEDURES**

TVGC Members are made aware of the following definitions and procedures:

### **ABUSE AND NEGLECT**

Somebody may abuse or neglect a child by inflicting harm, or by failing to act to prevent harm. Children may be abused in a family or in an institutional or community setting: by those known to them or, more rarely, by a stranger.

### **DEFINITIONS OF ABUSE [TAKEN FROM HM GOVERNMENT'S "WORKING TOGETHER 2018"]**

- **PHYSICAL ABUSE**

Somebody may abuse or neglect a child by inflicting harm, or by failing to act to prevent harm. Children may be abused in a family or in an institution or community setting; by those known to them, or more rarely by a stranger. Physical abuse may involve hitting, shaking, throwing, poisoning, burning or

scalding, drowning, suffocating, or otherwise causing physical harm to a child.

Physical harm may also be caused when a parent or carer fabricates the symptoms of, or deliberately induces, illness in a child.

- **EMOTIONAL ABUSE**

Emotional abuse is the persistent emotional maltreatment of a child such as to cause severe and persistent adverse effects on the child's emotional development. It may involve conveying

Document Title	Revision Date	Next Review Date	Page Number	Owner
202312 TVGC MARS CPP	January 2024	January 2025	Page 3 of 8	Safeguarding Lead

to children that they are worthless or unloved, inadequate, or valued only insofar as they meet the needs of another person. It may include not giving the child opportunities to express their views, deliberately silencing them or 'making fun' of what they say or how they communicate. It may feature age or developmentally inappropriate expectations being imposed on children. These may include interactions that are beyond the child's developmental capability, as well as overprotection and limitation of exploration and learning, or preventing the child participating in normal social interaction. It may involve seeing or hearing the ill-treatment of another. It may involve serious bullying (including cyberbullying), causing children frequently to feel frightened or in danger, or the exploitation or corruption of children. Some level of emotional abuse is involved in all types of maltreatment of a child, though it may occur alone.

- **SEXUAL ABUSE**

Sexual abuse involves forcing or enticing a child or young person to take part in sexual activities, not necessarily involving a high level of violence, whether or not the child is aware of what is happening. The activities may involve physical contact, including assault by penetration (for example, rape or oral sex) or non-penetrative acts such as masturbation, kissing, rubbing and touching outside of clothing. They may also include non-contact activities, such as involving children in looking at, or in the production of, sexual images, watching sexual activities, encouraging children to behave in sexually inappropriate ways, or grooming a child in preparation for abuse (including via the internet). Sexual abuse is not solely perpetrated by adult males. Women can also commit acts of sexual abuse, as can other children.

Child Sexual Exploitation is a growing problem and may be revealed in conversations and in the furtive use of mobile phones and other communication devices.

Female Genital Mutilation is also a form of sexual abuse and any suspicions should be reported as previously detailed.

- **RADICALISATION**

Children are impressionable and are particularly susceptible to radicalisation. Radicalisation is defined as the action or process causing someone to adopt radical positions on political or social issues. Subjecting a young person to radicalisation is considered to be an abuse.

- **POTENTIAL ACTS OF TERRORISM**

Humberside Police have expressed concern that remote airfields may be used for criminal activities and to provide flight training for potential terrorists. They have asked airfield operators to record any suspicious movements of aircraft and to report anybody suspected of being radicalised.

Document Title	Revision Date	Next Review Date	Page Number	Owner
202312 TVGC MARS CPP	January 2024	January 2025	Page 4 of 8	Safeguarding Lead

## **NEGLECT**

Neglect is the persistent failure to meet a child's basic physical and/or psychological needs, likely to result in the serious impairment of the child's health or development. Neglect may occur during pregnancy as a result of maternal substance abuse. Once a child is born, neglect may involve a parent or carer failing to:

- provide adequate food, clothing and shelter (including exclusion from home or abandonment);
- protect a child from physical and emotional harm or danger;
- ensure adequate supervision (including the use of inadequate care-givers); or
- ensure access to appropriate medical care or treatment.

It may also include neglect of, or unresponsiveness to, a child's basic emotional needs.

## **E-SAFEGUARDING AND ACCEPTABLE USE POLICY FOR ELECTRONIC EQUIPMENT**

TVGC has a website and associated Facebook page, controlled by the Marketing and PR Director. Photos of children will only be used on these sites where the consent of their parent or guardian has been obtained by TVGC. In the case of a child who is a member of TVGC, this is obtained by means of a parent's counter-signature of the membership form.

## **HOW WE ENSURE THAT MEMBERS UNDERSTAND THIS POLICY AND ACT APPROPRIATELY**

- The Safeguarding Officer will undertake appropriate training
- The policy and procedures will be posted in the clubhouse and in launch control
- No children under the age of 13 will be accepted for flight training
- Children below the age of 16 will be supervised by a parent
- Children over 16 may be allowed on site without parental supervision following discussion with the Chairman
- Adult members will not be in a 1:1 encounter with children
- Only qualified instructors may fly with children in club aircraft. All flying is supervised and all flights are logged.

Document Title	Revision Date	Next Review Date	Page Number	Owner
202312 TVGC MARS CPP	January 2024	January 2025	Page 5 of 8	Safeguarding Lead

## TRAINING

For details of any available Courses or for further information please contact:

North Lincolnshire Local Safeguarding Children Board on

**01724 296654**

A full copy of North Lincolnshire LSCB procedures is available for viewing in libraries, schools and Social Services departments.

## REPORTING AND WHISTLEBLOWING PROCEDURES

Trent Valley Gliding Club has procedures for reporting of potential abuse and for whistleblowing. These are attached as an Appendix to this policy.

## REVIEW OF THIS POLICY

This policy was reviewed in May 2020 due to a change in legislation and subsequently reviewed and amended, the latest review being in January 2024

This policy was approved by the TVGC Committee on 8th January 2024.

Signed ..... Richard Malam TVGC Chairman

This policy will be reviewed annually unless new legislation or regulation requires an earlier update.

Document Title	Revision Date	Next Review Date	Page Number	Owner
202312 TVGC MARS CPP	January 2024	January 2025	Page 6 of 8	Safeguarding Lead

# REPORTING AND WHISTLEBLOWING PROCEDURES

Trent Valley Gliding Club has procedures for reporting of potential abuse and for whistleblowing. These are also contained in a separate document on the “Member Resources” page of the club’s website [tvgc.org.uk](http://tvgc.org.uk).

The Designated Person, who will investigate any concerns raised, is Richard Hannigan. If the Designated Person is not available, the Deputy Designated Person is Wayne Dewick.

## WHAT YOU SHOULD DO IF YOU SUSPECT ABUSE

1. You must report concerns as soon as possible by e-mail to the Club Secretary of TVGC (e-mail: [info@tvgc.org.uk](mailto:info@tvgc.org.uk)). Any concerns raised will be treated in the strictest confidence and will be followed up with all possible speed. In an emergency and if the designated person cannot be contacted, then North Lincolnshire Council’s Children and Family Services Department or the police should be contacted at the numbers given below.
2. If the suspicions relate to the designated person, then the deputy or North Lincolnshire Council Children’s Services should be contacted.
3. Suspicions should not be discussed with anyone, other than those named above.

We would hope that an individual would use this procedure in the first instance. However, it is the right of any individual to make direct referrals to the child protection agencies. If you feel that TVGC has not responded appropriately to your concerns, it is open to you to contact the child protection agencies direct.

## ALLEGATIONS OF PHYSICAL INJURY, EMOTIONAL ABUSE OR NEGLECT

If a child has an injury which may be a non-accidental injury, or symptoms of neglect and a referral is to be made then:

- a. The designated person should contact North Lincolnshire Council Children’s Services. If there has been a deliberate injury or where there are concerns about the child's safety the child's parents should not be contacted before first consulting with children and family services.
- b. Where emergency medical attention is necessary it should be sought immediately. The designated person should inform the doctor of any suspicion of abuse.
- c. If a referral is being made without the parent's knowledge and non-urgent medical treatment is required, NLC’s Children and Family Services should be informed. Otherwise, speak to the parent/carer and suggest medical attention be sought for the child.
- d. If appropriate, the parent/carer should be encouraged to seek help from the Children and Family Services Department prior to a referral being made. If they fail to do so in situations of real concern the designated person will contact children and family services directly for advice.

Document Title	Revision Date	Next Review Date	Page Number	Owner
202312 TVGC MARS CPP	January 2024	January 2025	Page 7 of 8	Safeguarding Lead

## ALLEGATIONS OF SEXUAL ABUSE

In the event of allegations of sexual abuse, the designated person will:

- a. Contact the Children and Family Services or Police Child Protection Team directly. The designated person will not speak to the parents.
- b. Under no circumstances should the designated person, or any other member of the organisation, attempt to carry out any investigation into the allegations or suspicions of sexual abuse. The role of the designated person is to collect the exact details of the allegations or suspicion and to provide this information to the child protection agencies that will investigate the matter under the Children Act 1989.

## WHAT TO DO ONCE A CHILD HAS TALKED TO YOU ABOUT ABUSE

- a. Make a note immediately of what the child has said, writing down exactly what the child has said, write down what you said in reply, when they said it and what was happening immediately beforehand. Record dates and times of the events and when the record was made. Keep all notes secure.
- b. Report your discussion as soon as possible to the designated person.
- c. Once a child has talked about abuse the designated person must consider if it is safe for a child to return home to a potentially abusive situation. On a rare occasion it might be necessary to take immediate action to contact children and family services and/or the police to discuss putting into effect safety measures for the child so that they do not return home.
- d. Retention and Disposal of Records: records will be stored and when appropriate disposed of, securely, in accordance with GDPR by the Company Secretary. Where concerns are raised and acted upon, a record will be kept until the child is 25 years old. Where concerns are not acted upon, the record will be kept until 6 years after the child has left TVGC. Concerns regarding any TVGC member other than the child should be kept on file until 6 years after the member has left TVGC
- e. Allegations against staff or volunteers will be investigated following local procedures. Where there are concerns that a child has been put in danger of abuse, or has suffered abuse owing to the actions of a member of staff or volunteer the Local Authority Designated Officer or the police will be contacted. Details of any allegation which has not resulted in a referral will be kept securely in the same way as described in 4 above.

Document Title	Revision Date	Next Review Date	Page Number	Owner
202312 TVGC MARS CPP	January 2024	January 2025	Page 8 of 8	Safeguarding Lead