

Meraki Art School
Child Protection &
Safeguarding Policy

June 2021

The purpose of this policy is:

- to protect children and young people who receive Meraki's services.

- to provide parents, staff and volunteers with the overarching principles that guide our approach to child protection.

This policy applies to anyone working on behalf of Meraki Art School, including owners, paid staff, sessional workers, volunteers, and students.

Legal framework

This policy has been drawn up on the basis of legislation, policy and guidance that seeks to protect children in England. A summary of the key legislation is available from [nspcc.org.uk/learning](https://www.nspcc.org.uk/learning)

Supporting Documents

This policy statement should be read alongside our organisational policies, procedures, guidance and other related documents.

- Role description of the designated safeguarding
- Role description for the designated safeguarding officer
- Dealing with disclosures and concerns about a child or young person
- Managing allegations against staff and volunteers
- Recording concerns and information sharing
- Child protection records retention and storage
- Code of conduct for staff and volunteers
- Behaviour codes for children and young people
- Photography and sharing images guidance
- Safer recruitment
- Online safety
- Anti-bullying
- Managing complaints
- Whistleblowing
- Health and safety
- Induction, training, supervision and support
- Adult to child supervision ratios

We believe that:

- children and young people should never experience abuse of any kind

- we have a responsibility to promote the welfare of all children and young people, to keep them safe and to practise in a way that protects them.

We recognise that:

- the welfare of the child is paramount
- all children, regardless of age, disability, gender reassignment, race, religion or belief, sex, or sexual orientation have a right to equal protection from all types of harm or abuse
- some children are additionally vulnerable because of the impact of previous experiences, their level of dependency, communication needs or other issues
- working in partnership with children, young people, their parents, carers and other agencies is essential in promoting young people's welfare.

We will seek to keep children and young people safe by:

- valuing, listening to and respecting them
 - appointing a Designated Safeguarding Officer (DSO) for children and young people
 - adopting child protection and safeguarding best practice through our policies, procedures and code of conduct for staff and volunteers
 - providing effective management for staff and volunteers through supervision, support, training and quality assurance measures
 - recruiting staff and volunteers safely, ensuring all necessary checks are made
 - recording and storing information professionally and securely in line with data protection legislation and guidance
 - sharing information about safeguarding and good practice with children, their families, staff and Volunteers
 - making sure that children, young people and their families know where to go for help if they have a concern
 - using our safeguarding procedures to share concerns and relevant information with agencies who need to know, and involving children, young people, parents, families and carers appropriately
 - using our procedures to manage any allegations against staff and volunteers appropriately
 - creating and maintaining an anti-bullying environment and ensuring that we have a policy and procedure to help us deal effectively with any bullying that does arise
 - ensuring that we have effective complaints and whistleblowing measures in place
 - ensuring that we provide a safe physical environment for our children, young people, staff and volunteers, by applying health and safety measures in accordance with the law and regulatory guidance.
- building a safeguarding culture where staff and volunteers, children, young people and their families, treat each other with respect and are comfortable about sharing concerns.

Contact details:

Designated Safeguarding Officer (DSO)

Name: Chloe Farrant

Phone: 07903800809 email: admin@merakiartschool.co.uk

(Owner of Meraki Art School)

Designated Safeguarding Officer (DSO)

Carrie Sibbald

(Owner of Meraki Art School)

Phone: email: admin@merakiartschool.co.uk

We are committed to reviewing our policy and good practice annually.

NSPCC Helpline 0808 800 5000