



Child Protection Principles

Introduction

- The Management Team constituting N:VISION, in their concern to protect young people, are committed to the adoption of the guidelines concerning Child Protection as published by the Home Office in 'Safe from Harm', and as referred to in individual denominations policies such as the Baptist Union handbook 'Safe to Grow' and the Chichester Diocesan booklet 'The Care and Protection of Children'. A copy of these booklets is available for reference.
- The following statement of Child Protection principles has been adopted by the N:VISION Management Team.
- It is expected that all groups attending events organised by N:VISION will have their own Child Protection Policies.
- With so many denominations working together to form N:VISION, the following principles and good practice guidelines have been put together to provide clarity and consistency. These should be considered whilst observing the guidelines and practices of individuals own churches and also respecting those of other denominations.

Principles

1. It is the responsibility of leaders bringing young people to events organised by N:VISION to know the whereabouts of the young people for whom they have responsibility at all times.

2. All activities with young people should be planned to minimise situations where they may be at risk of harm. All leaders should be familiar with the following 'Good Practice Guidelines'. Leaders have a duty of care for the young people who are their responsibility.
 3. It is recommended that each leader, however experienced, will have somebody to oversee their work. This is to support and encourage the leader and to ensure that the young people in their care are kept safe from harm.
 4. Health and safety issues are important. All leaders should be aware of the locations of fire exits, fire extinguishers, fire assembly point etc. Each leader should be fully aware of the group's guidelines concerning injuries and the whereabouts of the First Aid station at the event.
 5. Particular care is to be taken when leaders are using communal toilet facilities at the same time as the young people.
 6. It is not safe to presume that anyone can be excluded from being a potential abuser.
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Good Practice: General Guidelines

These guidelines are to help leaders be above reproach in their role with young people in attendance at **N:VISION** events.

These guidelines are to protect both the leaders and the young people in their care.

Most of these guidelines are common sense and for the most part they are a statement of the obvious.

- Where possible avoid being alone with a young person or a group of young people.
- Always act in a way appropriate to the young person's age and needs.
- Avoid unnecessary, informal touching.

- Restrain a young person only to prevent them hurting themselves or others.
 - Be aware of the special needs of vulnerable young people.
 - Leaders should be prepared to let others know if it is considered that actions, language or attitude is inappropriate or open to misinterpretation.
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Good Practice: Ministry Team

A Ministry Team should be selected for each event and additional training should be offered to those involved.

N:VISION has adopted separate detailed Ministry Team guidelines. A copy of these is available for reference.

Where other leaders are involved in Ministry:

- Be careful of physical contact. If you lay hands on someone please be sensitive to where you put them and ask permission of the person before doing so.
 - We also feel it is important for you to only pray for someone of the same gender as yourself.
 - If possible pray in single sex pairs or mixed groups. Do not allow for any misunderstanding.
 - Remain in a place visible to others while praying.
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Good Practice: Stewards

A team of Stewards should be selected for each event and additional training should be offered to those involved.

N:VISION has adopted separate detailed Steward Team guidelines. A copy of these is available for reference.

This policy statement was agreed at an **N:VISION** Team meeting held on 14th March 2005 and will be agreed annually where implementation will be monitored

Amended 23.02.2005