



# Go Ape – Children and Young People Safeguarding Policy

**Date of Issue:** 19/12/2025

**Approved by:** Senior Lead for Safeguarding

## **Purpose**

The purpose of this policy is to protect children and young people under the age of 18 from harm, abuse, neglect, or exploitation while engaged with Go Ape activities, staff, or associated personnel.

This policy sets out how Go Ape will prevent harm, respond to concerns, and promote a safe environment for children and young people.

## **Scope**

This policy applies to:

- All children and young people under 18 who participate in Go Ape activities.
- All staff, contractors, volunteers, and consultants engaged by Go Ape.
- Visitors, parents, carers, and members of the public who interact with children at Go Ape sites.

## **Policy Statement**

Go Ape believes every child and young person has the right to a safe, positive, and enjoyable experience.

We commit to:

- Zero tolerance of abuse, neglect, or exploitation of children.
- Promoting equality and inclusion, recognising that some children face additional vulnerabilities.
- Embedding safeguarding responsibilities across all staff and activities.
- Responding promptly and appropriately to safeguarding concerns.

## **Types of Abuse Covered**

This policy covers (but is not limited to):

- Physical abuse
- Sexual abuse
- Emotional/psychological abuse
- Neglect
- Exploitation (including child sexual exploitation, child criminal exploitation, trafficking, and online abuse)
- Bullying, harassment, and discriminatory abuse

### **Prevention**

Go Ape responsibilities:

- Ensure all staff and volunteers are aware of and trained in safeguarding children.
- Include safeguarding checks in recruitment, vetting, and induction processes.
- Ensure children's safety is prioritised in programme and activity design.
- Provide role-appropriate safeguarding training for staff.
- Maintain clear codes of conduct for staff and visitors.

### **Reporting Concerns**

- Any staff member with a safeguarding concern must report it immediately to a Line Manager, Duty Ops or Safeguarding Officer.
- If they are unable or unwilling to report through normal channels, concerns can be escalated directly to the Senior Lead for Safeguarding.
- Go Ape will also accept safeguarding concerns from parents, children, members of the public, and partner agencies.
- Reports will be acted upon in line with statutory guidance and referred to children's social care or the police where appropriate.

### **Safeguarding Contacts**

- **Senior Lead for Safeguarding** – Dan Bruce  
✉ daniel.bruce@goape.co.uk | ☎ 07834 774157
- **Safeguarding Officer** – Ellis Cooper  
✉ ellis.cooper@goape.co.uk | ☎ 07814405118

## Response

- All reports will be investigated promptly, fairly, and in line with statutory child protection procedures.
- Concerns will be referred to the local authority children’s services or the police.
- Disciplinary measures will be taken against staff or personnel who breach safeguarding responsibilities.

## Confidentiality

- Information relating to safeguarding will only be shared on a need-to-know basis.
- All records will be stored securely and in accordance with data protection legislation.

## Legal Framework

This policy is underpinned by UK child safeguarding legislation and statutory guidance, including:

- Working Together to Safeguard Children (England 2023)
- Keeping Children Safe in Education (England 2024)
- National Guidance for Child Protection in Scotland (2023)
- Working Together to Safeguard People (Wales 2019)
- Co-operating to Safeguard Children and Young People (Northern Ireland 2017)

## Monitoring and Review

- This policy will be reviewed annually or sooner if legislation, best practice, or organisational needs change.
- The Senior Lead for Safeguarding holds overall accountability for compliance.

## **Supporting Documents**

This policy should be read in conjunction with the following Go Ape Ltd policies and procedures, which together form our safeguarding framework:

- Children and Young People Safeguarding Policy
- Vulnerable Adult Safeguarding Policy
- Employee & Under-18 Workers Safeguarding Policy
- Safer Recruitment Policy Statement
- Whistleblowing Policy
- Anti-Bullying and Harassment Policy
- Code of Conduct for Staff and Visitors
- Health and Safety Policy
- Disciplinary Policy and Procedures

## **Approval**

This policy is approved and endorsed by:

### **Senior Lead for Safeguarding**

*Dan Bruce*

Date: 20/08/2025