

Hope Education Project (HEP) Safeguarding Policy Statement

Date: February 2025

Review Date: February 2026

The **Hope Education Project (HEP)** is dedicated to protecting children and young people from harm. We believe that safeguarding is everyone's responsibility, and we are committed to ensuring that all children and young people involved in our programs feel safe, valued, and respected.

The Hope Education Project is a registered NPO in Ghana (NPOS/GR01/LN0623/23) with its head office at: 5th Floor, Vivo Place, Rangoon Lane, Accra, Ghana.

Our Commitment to Safeguarding

We are committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people. We recognise that:

- The welfare of children is paramount in all we do.
 - All children, regardless of age, gender, ethnicity, disability, or religion, have an equal right to protection from harm.
 - Some children are particularly vulnerable due to their life experiences, level of dependency, or communication needs.
 - We must create a culture where children feel safe and listened to.
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Purpose and Scope

This policy statement applies to all staff, facilitators, volunteers, and contractors associated with the Hope Education Project. It aims to:

- Protect children and young people who participate in our programs from harm.
 - Provide staff, volunteers, and partners with the overarching principles that guide our approach to safeguarding.
 - Ensure that all safeguarding concerns are handled appropriately and in line with best practices.
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Our Approach to Safeguarding

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

- **Valuing, listening to, and respecting them.**
- **Creating safe environments** where children feel secure and supported.

- **Recruiting staff and volunteers safely**, ensuring all necessary checks are completed.
 - **Providing safeguarding training** and ongoing support for all facilitators and staff.
 - **Developing clear safeguarding procedures** for identifying, reporting, and responding to concerns.
 - **Promoting online safety** and ensuring appropriate use of technology.
 - **Working in partnership** with families, schools, and local authorities to promote children's welfare.
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Online Safety

In a world where digital tools are integral to education, we recognise the importance of keeping children safe online. Our online safety measures include:

- Preventing exposure to harmful content.
 - Encouraging responsible use of technology.
 - Ensuring that staff and facilitators do not engage in private communication with children on social media.
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Confidentiality and Information Sharing

We respect the privacy of children and families. However, we will share information with relevant authorities when necessary to protect a child. All information will be handled in line with data protection regulations and best practices.

Health and Safety

We are committed to ensuring that all program environments are safe and free from hazards. We work closely with partner schools to implement emergency procedures and health and safety protocols.

Building a Safeguarding Culture

We aim to build a culture where:

- Staff and volunteers understand their safeguarding responsibilities.
 - Children and young people are empowered to speak out if they feel unsafe.
 - Concerns are taken seriously and handled appropriately.
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Leadership and Accountability

Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL): Angus Thomas (CEO)

Deputy Safeguarding Lead: Mariama Adam (Programs Manager)

Our leadership team ensures that safeguarding remains central to all aspects of our work. Regular reviews and updates to our safeguarding practices help us maintain high standards of child protection.

Policy Review

We are committed to reviewing this safeguarding policy statement annually to ensure it remains relevant and aligned with the latest guidance and best practices.

Contact Information

For safeguarding concerns, please contact Angus Thomas angus@hopeeducationproject +233 20 882 0893 in the first instance
