Safeguarding Children and Young People policy

This policy follows the guidance given by the Charity Commission (Safeguarding Children and Young People)\(^1\)

**The purpose and scope of this policy statement**

The British Science Association (BSA) works with children and families as part of its activities. These include the following:

- We hold children’s data for their CREST project submissions.
- We employ assessors and use volunteer assessors who assess children’s CREST projects using our online platform.
- Children and families attend events organised by the BSA Head Office.

The purpose of this policy statement is:

- to protect children and young people who we work with.
- to provide parents, staff and volunteers with the overarching principles that guide our approach to child protection.

This policy statement applies to anyone working on behalf of the BSA, including senior managers and the board of trustees, paid staff and contractors and volunteers.

**Legal framework**

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

This policy acts as the Association’s Child Protection Policy. In this policy, ‘child’/‘children’ means people aged up to 18.

The Association is committed to safeguarding children from harm. The Association’s staff, Trustees and volunteers uphold the position that the welfare of the child is paramount and that all children without exception have the right to protection from abuse regardless of gender, ethnicity, disability, sexuality or beliefs. Any concerns and allegations of abuse will be responded to swiftly and with sensitivity (this may require a referral to children’s services or in an emergency, the Police).

**Related policies and procedures**

This policy statement should be read alongside our organisational policies and procedures, including our:

- Photography & filming policy
- Whistleblowing policy
- Data protection policy

**Recruitment, selection and vetting**

We are committed to the safe recruitment, selection and vetting of paid and volunteer staff. Each new role created will be reviewed against DBS guidance to ascertain whether the role delivers regulated activities.

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\(^1\) [https://www.gov.uk/guidance/safeguarding-duties-for-charity-trustees](https://www.gov.uk/guidance/safeguarding-duties-for-charity-trustees)
Any staff member or volunteer in a role delivering regulated activities to young people will undergo an enhanced Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) check. All disclosures will be reported to the Director of Strategy & Operations. The BSA will undertake regular DBS checks for roles which deliver regulated activities. This will usually be every three years.

All adult volunteers who work regularly or closely with children or young people are asked to register with the STEM Ambassador scheme. The scheme includes a DBS check where applicable and training.

Volunteers are informed of our Safeguarding Children and Young People Policy as part of the Volunteer Policy and induction.

**Reporting**

Any concerns over child protection should be reported without delay either to Katherine Mathieson, Chief Executive (nominated child protection lead) or Gill Riches, Director of Strategy & Operations (Deputy child protection lead). If neither is appropriate or available, the concern should be reported to the Chair, Gisela Abbam. Where appropriate an investigation will be undertaken under the Association’s Whistleblowing procedure. Written, dated notes should be kept of any incident(s). Guidance on what may be considered as child abuse is available from the NSPCC website².

This policy is approved by and endorsed by Council. It applies to all staff, contractors, Trustees and volunteers. Children, young people, teachers and parents/guardians can ask to see a copy of this policy at any time.

**Contact details**

**Nominated child protection lead**

Name: Katherine Mathieson  
Position: Chief Executive  
Email: katherine.mathieson@britishscienceassociation.org  
Phone: 07502 419223

**Deputy child protection lead**

Name(s): Gill Riches  
Position: Director of Strategy & Operations  
Email: gill.riches@britishscienceassociation.org  
Phone: 07826 521404

**NSPCC Helpline**

0808 800 5000

This policy was last reviewed in June 2019.

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² [https://learning.nspcc.org.uk/research-resources/briefings/definitions-signs-child-abuse/](https://learning.nspcc.org.uk/research-resources/briefings/definitions-signs-child-abuse/)