



## **Safeguarding Statement of Commitment**

Jesters believes that children have the right to be safe and happy at all times, and that we have a duty to ensure that all children are protected from harm. Good child protection practice not only protects the children, but also the staff and volunteers who have responsibility for them. This is called a 'Safeguarding Culture'.

Jesters is committed to ensuring that it meets its responsibilities in respect of Safeguarding through the provision of safe recruitment procedures, as outlined in our Staffing policy, continued support and training of all staff.

All staff understand Jester's Safeguarding procedures and have regular appropriate training and guidance in the principles of child welfare. Child abuse manifests itself in a variety of different ways, some overt and others much less so. All staff have Safeguarding training and will be vigilant to signs and evidence of physical, sexual and emotional abuse or neglect.

Jesters is committed to ensuring that it meets its responsibilities in respect of Safeguarding by treating any allegation seriously and sensitively. Jesters will not carry out any investigation itself into a suspected child abuse incident. On discovering an allegation of abuse, the Safeguarding Officer will immediately refer the case to the local statutory Safeguarding agencies.

Jesters will take appropriate action in relation to the findings of any investigation into allegations of abuse by a member of staff, consistent with its duties to protect the safety of children and uphold fair processes for staff, students and volunteers.

Jesters values freedom of speech and the expression of beliefs / ideology as fundamental rights underpinning our society's values. Children, young people and staff have the right to speak freely and voice their opinions. However, freedom comes with responsibility and free speech that is designed to manipulate the vulnerable or that leads to violence and harm of others goes against the moral principles in which freedom of speech is valued.