



Staff/Volunteers Code of Conduct

The Purpose and Scope of Behaviour Code

This behaviour code outlines the conduct that Bale's Buddies Therapy Dogs Community Outreach expects from all our staff and volunteers. This includes trustees, agency staff, interns, students on work placement and anyone who is undertaking duties for the organisation, whether paid or unpaid.

The behaviour code is there to help us protect children, young people and vulnerable adults from abuse. It has been informed by the views of children, young people and vulnerable adults.

Bale's Buddies Therapy Dogs Community Outreach is responsible for making sure everyone taking part in our activities has seen, understood and agreed to follow the code of behaviour, and that they understand the consequences of inappropriate behaviour.

The Role of Staff and Volunteers

In your role at Bale's Buddies Therapy Dogs Community Outreach, you are acting in a position of trust and authority and have a duty of care towards the people we work with. You are likely to be seen as a role model by young people and are expected to act appropriately.

We expect people who take part in our services to display appropriate behaviour at all times. This includes behaviour that takes place outside our organisation and behaviour that takes place online.

Responsibility of Staff and Volunteers

You are responsible for:

- Prioritising the welfare of the service recipients
- Providing a safe environment
- Ensuring equipment is used safely and for its intended purpose
- Having good awareness of issues to do with safeguarding and child protection and taking action when appropriate.

- Following our principles, policies and procedures; including our policies and procedures for safeguarding and child protection, whistleblowing and online safety
- staying within the law at all times
- Modelling good behaviour for children, young people and vulnerable adults to follow
- Challenging all inappropriate behaviour and reporting any breaches of the behaviour code to James Bosworth – Director.
- Reporting all concerns about abusive behaviour, following our safeguarding and child protection procedures. This includes inappropriate behaviour displayed by an adult or child and directed at anybody of any age.

Respecting Children, young people and vulnerable adults

You should:

- listen to and respect children at all times
- value and take children's contributions seriously, actively involving them in planning activities wherever possible
- respect a young person's right to personal privacy as far as possible. If you need to break confidentiality in order to follow child protection procedures, it is important to explain this to the child or young person at the earliest opportunity.

Diversity and inclusion

You should:

- Treat children, young people and vulnerable adults fairly and without prejudice or discrimination
- Understand that children, young people and vulnerable adults are individuals with individual needs
- Respect differences in gender, sexual orientation, culture, race, ethnicity, disability and religious belief systems, and appreciate that all participants bring something valuable and different to the group/organisation
- Challenge discrimination and prejudice
- Encourage young people and adults to speak out about attitudes or behaviour that makes them uncomfortable.

Appropriate Relationships

You should:

- Promote relationships that are based on openness, honesty, trust and respect
- Avoid showing favouritism
- Be patient with others

- Exercise caution when you are discussing sensitive issues with children or young people
- Ensure your contact with children, young people and vulnerable adults is appropriate and relevant to the nature of the activity you are involved in
- Ensure that when lone working others are aware of where you are
- Only provide personal care in an emergency and make sure there is more than one adult present if possible

Inappropriate Behaviour

When working with children, young people and vulnerable adults, you must not:

- Allow concerns or allegations to go unreported
- Take unnecessary risks
- Smoke, consume alcohol or use illegal substances
- develop inappropriate relationships with children, young people and vulnerable adults
- Make inappropriate promises to children, young people and vulnerable adults
- Engage in behaviour that is in any way abusive
 - including having any form of sexual contact with a child or young person
- Let children, young people and vulnerable adults have your personal contact details (mobile number, email or postal address) or have contact with them via a personal social media account
- Act in a way that can be perceived as threatening or intrusive
- Patronise or belittle children, young people and vulnerable adults
- Make sarcastic, insensitive, derogatory or sexually suggestive comments or gestures to or in front of children, young people and vulnerable adults.

Upholding this Code of Behaviour

You should always follow this code of behaviour and never rely on your reputation or that of our organisation to protect you.

If you have behaved inappropriately, you will be subject to our disciplinary procedures. Depending on the seriousness of the situation, you might be asked to leave Bale's Buddies Therapy Dogs Community Outreach. We might also make a report to statutory agencies such as the police and/or the local authority child protection services.

If you become aware of any breaches of this code, you must report them to James Bosworth – Director. If necessary, you should follow our whistleblowing procedure and safeguarding and child protection procedures.

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