



Contextual Safeguarding - Stevenage Swimming Club in association with Swim England

Contextual Safeguarding has been integrated into Working Together to Safeguard Children 2018 and Keeping Children Safe in Education.

It is an approach to understanding, and responding to, children's experiences of significant harm beyond their families. It recognises that the different relationships children form in their neighbourhoods, schools and online can feature violence and abuse.

It requires all who work with children to have consideration for their needs in the wider non-family context and an understanding that environmental factors around children and their activities including sporting and communication are highly relevant to ensuring children are kept safe.

Children may be vulnerable to abuse or exploitation from within peer groups, those in a position of trust, or from within the wider community and/or online. These threats can take a variety of different forms and children can be vulnerable to multiple threats, including direct or online abuse and sexual exploitation.

Within our sports we recognise there are certain environments or contexts where children may be vulnerable, and a need to ensure all members take action to prevent risk. In this context, specific risks are in changing rooms and villages, often with the use of cameras, phones and devices capable of taking/sending images, and from unmonitored direct communication with children, be it from their peers or those in a position of trust.

On that basis, the following policies should be adopted by all affiliated organisations, reducing the threat to the safety and welfare of children who may be subject to the same environmental/contextual factors.

Policies are split essentially between:

- changing room, images and photography
- online contact and communication with children.