

Society of Antiquaries London
Child Protection Policy Statement
December 2019

The Society of Antiquaries (SAL) believes that it is always unacceptable for a child or young person to experience abuse of any kind and recognises its responsibility to safeguard the welfare of all children and young people, by a commitment to practice which protects them.

Who we are:

The Society was founded in 1707 and today our c.3,000 Fellows include many distinguished archaeologists, art and architectural historians holding positions of responsibility across the cultural heritage sector. The Fellowship is international in its reach and its interests are inclusive of all aspects of the material past.

As a registered charity (207237), the Society's principal objectives are to foster public understanding of that heritage, to support research and communicate the results, and to engage in the formulation of public policy on the care of our historic environment and cultural property.

We support those charitable objectives on a daily basis through our Library and Museum collections at Burlington House and at Kelmscott Manor, through our conservation and research grant awards, our programme of scholarly and public events (lectures, seminars, conferences, exhibitions), communications such as publications, our website and our e-newsletter, and outreach activities. We participate in Open House London and offer public tours through the Burlington House apartments.

Our Library contains an outstanding collection of more than 130,000 books including volumes from the fifteenth century to the present day, with more being added all the time. We welcome new researchers to the Library to consult materials that are not available elsewhere, and help them navigate our archives and collections.

The Society of Antiquaries receives no direct support from public funds.

Our Mission:

"The encouragement, advancement and furtherance of the study and knowledge of the antiquities and history of this and other countries." The Society of Antiquaries of London, Royal Charter, 1751.

We recognise that:

- The welfare of the child is paramount, as enshrined in the Children Act 1989, 2004.
- All children regardless of age, disability, gender, racial heritage, religious belief, sexual orientation or identity have the right to protection from abuse.
- Working in partnership with children, young people, their parents, carers and their agencies is essential in promoting young people's welfare.
- All suspicions and allegations of abuse should be properly reported, investigated and dealt with swiftly and appropriately.

- All staff, trustees, Fellows, contractors and volunteers should clearly understand what constitutes appropriate behaviour and responses. Failure to maintain appropriate standards may be dealt with using the disciplinary procedure.

The purpose of the policy:

- To provide protection for the children and young people who visit the Society, including the children of adult members or users.
- To provide staff and volunteers with guidance on procedures they should adopt in the event that they suspect a child or young person may be experiencing, or be at risk of, harm.

This policy applies to all staff, including senior managers and the board of trustees, paid staff, volunteers and sessional workers, agency staff, students, Fellows or anyone working on behalf of the Society of Antiquaries London.

We will seek to safeguard children and young people by:

- Valuing them, listening to and respecting them - the welfare of the child or young adult is vitally important.
- Adopting child protection guidelines through procedures and a code of conduct for staff and volunteers.
- Recruiting staff, volunteers and contractors safely, ensuring all necessary and appropriate checks are made.
- Sharing information about child protection and good practice with children, parents, staff and volunteers.
- Sharing information about concerns with agencies who need to know, and involving parents and children appropriately.
- Providing effective management and training for staff and volunteers through supervision, support and training.

We support this statement by:

- Committing to our Child Protection and Safeguarding Policy.
- Nominating a trustee as Child Protection Lead.
- Ensuring that all staff, trustees, volunteers, Fellows and guest members are aware of our Child Protection and Safeguarding Policy and know where they can refer to the policy and action plan when needed.
- Supporting staff, volunteers and guest members by providing training in child protection and safeguarding as appropriate to their role or situation.
- Committed to reviewing our policy and good practice annually.

The Society reserves the right to deny access for children and young adults under the age of 18 to the Society's building and any area within deemed for private use by staff and Fellows, unless as a part of a tour group and accompanied by an adult group leader and a SAL staff member; or unless part of a visiting school group accompanied by the School's teacher and SAL staff member; or unless visiting a SAL exhibition and accompanied by an adult.