

Safeguarding statement

Urban Geography East London is a collective of teachers who design and deliver bespoke fieldtrip experiences from Key Stage 2 to A level.

Our attitude to safeguarding is based on the following key principles:

- Everyone who takes part in fieldwork should have the opportunity to learn and enjoy the outdoors in an environment that keeps them safe from harm.
- The welfare, protection and safeguarding of children must always be paramount and should be based on prevention and best practice.
- It is everyone's right to be protected from abuse, irrespective of age, ability or disability, gender, race, religion or belief, sex or sexual orientation, or socio-economic background.
- Duty of care is the responsibility of all, regardless if in a paid or voluntary role whether hosting the visit or visiting.
- Each fieldtrip sits within the auspices of the visiting institutions policy framework, Whilst UGEL staff are keenly aware of their safeguarding responsibilities, the visiting staff and trip leader will take ultimate responsibility for safeguarding decisions whilst on the trip. Although UGEL tutors are acting as facilitators of the fieldwork activities they will follow good safeguarding practice and report any disclosures or concerns to the Designated Safeguarding Lead of the attending school.
- Any allegations of abuse will be treated sensitively and seriously, and be responded to swiftly and appropriately.
- Confidentiality will be appropriately maintained, but the safety and welfare of the individual/s will be the overriding consideration when making decisions on whether to share information.

- Urban Geography staff will support everyone involved in delivering fieldwork to understand their roles and responsibilities for safeguarding children.
- All UGEL staff will have read and understood **Keeping Children Safe in Education**.
- This statement sits alongside our risk assessment which deals with and manages some specific potential safeguarding issues for example always working in pairs or groups when interviewing members of the public.

Scenario 1

A pupil on a visit to Stratford makes a complaint to a UGEL tutor of sexual harassment by a member of the public whilst conducting a survey on Stratford High Street. The UGEL tutor will notify the trip lead and take action to prevent other pupils from coming into contact with the particular individual by, for example, notifying other tutors due to arrive later in the day. The affected pupil will be supported as appropriate by the school staff, who know the child best.

Scenario 2

A pupil on a fieldtrip to east London discloses a safeguarding issue from school or home to a UGEL tutor. The tutor follows good safeguarding guidelines and listens carefully, does not ask leading questions, does not promise confidentiality, says that they will have to report it to the school's safeguarding team and then when safe and appropriate phones the school's designated safeguarding lead (numbers on school website) and reports the incident. If there is a likely to be significant time lapse then the UGEL tutor should make notes in advance of reporting verbally.