

Child Protection

1. The Purpose

This policy and the associated [OGB 16](#) are designed to help the Forestry Commission (FC) take all reasonable steps to ensure the health, safety and wellbeing of children who visit our forests or with whom we come into contact in other situations.

2. The Principles

The principles of this policy are to:

- provide information on best practice for FC employees whose work brings them into contact with children;
- allow and encourage children to enjoy their time with the FC and inform, educate and enthuse them about the work we do; and
- carry out appropriate checks before letting our employees work in roles which are likely to involve regular, substantial or unaccompanied contact with children.

3. The Policy

Our employees, and those working on our property, will:

- take all reasonable steps to ensure the health, safety and wellbeing of any child in contact with the FC;
- respect the wishes of children as they would an adult and not impose themselves on them;
- remember that children regard adults as role models and ensure that their behaviour, language, gestures, etc., are appropriate and above reproach;
- be aware of child protection issues in relation to the work they do and not become complacent or believe “it could never happen to me”;
- prevent other employees from putting a child in a situation in which there is significant risk to their health and safety;
- not physically, emotionally or sexually abuse any child or young or vulnerable person;
- report any evidence or reasonable suspicion that a child has been physically, emotionally or sexually abused, whether by an adult or another child, to the local Child Protection Team or the Police; and
- aim to ensure that, where possible, no adult is placed in a one-to-one situation with a child.