usherkids uk

Empowering children, young people and families living with Usher syndrome

Keeping You Safe: A Safeguarding Guide for Children & Families

Our commitment to you

At Usher Kids UK, keeping children, young people, families and adults at risk safe is at the heart of everything we do.

We want everyone to feel:

- safe
- respected
- listened to
- supported

We believe that:

- everyone has the right to be safe
- everyone should be treated with respect
- no one should experience harm or abuse

What safeguarding means

Safeguarding means:

- protecting people from harm
- making sure people feel safe
- responding quickly if something is wrong

Abuse can happen:

- at home
- at events
- online
- from people you know or don’t know

If something doesn’t feel right, it’s important to tell someone.

What you can expect from us

When you take part in Usher Kids UK activities, we will:

- listen to you and take you seriously
- treat you with respect
- make sure you know how to get help
- make sure adults supporting you are safe to work with children and young people
- respond quickly if there are concerns

We want you to feel comfortable and confident to speak up.

How adults should behave

All staff and volunteers must:

- treat everyone with kindness and respect
- listen carefully
- follow our safeguarding rules
- not behave in a way that makes anyone feel unsafe

If someone’s behaviour makes you feel uncomfortable, you can tell us.

If something feels wrong

Trust your feelings.

You might feel:

- worried
- confused
- uncomfortable
- unsafe

You do not need to wait until something serious happens.

You can talk to us about anything that doesn’t feel right.

How to get help

You can:

- talk to a member of staff or volunteer
- talk to your parent or carer
- contact our safeguarding team directly

Safeguarding team

Designated Safeguarding Officer (DSO)
Emma King
emma.king@usherkidsuk.org

Deputy Safeguarding Officer
Penny Lockhart
penny.lockhart@usherkidsuk.org

If you're at an Usher Kids UK event, you don't need to wait to send Emma or Penny an email, instead you can find them and talk to them, or ask another member of the adult team to find them for you.

If your concern is about Emma or Penny, you can contact our Trustee Safeguarding Lead, Laura, by emailing her at laura.ross@mft.nhs.uk

If there is immediate danger

Call **999** straight away.

Other ways to get help

You can also contact:

- **NSPCC Helpline:** 0808 800 5000
- **Childline (for children and young people):** 0800 1111

You can contact these services at any time.

What will happen if you tell us something

If you tell us something:

- we will listen carefully
- we will take you seriously
- we will help keep you safe

We may need to:

- share information with other services who can help protect you

We will only share information when it is needed to keep people safe.

Important things to remember

- You are not alone
- It is not your fault
- You will be listened to
- It is always OK to ask for help