

Camp Shamrock POLICY DOCUMENT PREVENTING ABUSE OF CHILDREN

We are bound by moral obligations to provide adequate care to those attending Camp Shamrock. You have a responsibility to pass on or provide information concerning child abuse. Any failure to do so may leave you legally liable.

The following criteria have been laid down as guidelines.

1. A written and verbal consultation with members of staff prior to their practical work with the children.
2. An adequate code of behaviour for all helpers, which will prevent the misuse of discipline, specifically forbidding the use of corporal punishment, & counteracting bullying.
3. A recruitment policy which requires the completion of an application form and recommendation from two referees.
- 4.

WHAT TO DO IF YOU ARE CONCERNED ABOUT CHILD ABUSE.

If you are concerned that a child is being abused or is in danger of being abused you must feel confident about sharing those concerns with the designated member of staff. {Unless otherwise stated, at least two of the board of directors for Camp Shamrock.}

It is essential you take the child's concerns seriously and act upon it immediately. This will enable the matter to be properly investigated by the duly appointed bodies.

Remember:

DO.

Listen and give the child time to say what he/she needs to say.

Reassure them they have done the Right things by telling you.

Report to the directors of the Camp.

Keep a note of your report, giving date time and name of the individual you have reported the incident

DON'T

Make the child repeat the story unnecessarily.

Promise to keep secrets.

Attempt to deal with the problem alone.

SUMMARY OF REFERRAL PROCEDURE

1. Allegation/suspicion/concern noted.
2. Report immediately to Camp Director.
3. The director ensures the remainders of the Board Members are informed.
4. On consultation and if deemed necessary reports are made to...
 - a. Social Services Tel. 028 - 90 - 520520
 - b. Police C.A.R.E. (Child Abuse Rape Enquiry) 028 - 90 - 650222

SENSITIVITY

Informing the parents/guardians of the child you are concerned about needs to be handled sensitively and should only be done in consultation with the statutory agency.

Any individual under suspicion, whether or not they are helpers in Camp Shamrock has a right to be notified of the cause of concern. Such individuals should not be approached without prior consultation and permission from the directors.

Statutory child protection procedures are centred on the welfare of the child. For this reason the statutory child protection agencies give an undertaking that any information you provide will remain confidential.

WHO ELSE CAN SUPPORT THE CHILD?

CHILDLINE	0800-1111
NSPCC	0800-800500
ISPC	00-353-16794944

TO OUR COUNSELLORS

You have chosen an honourable and worthwhile task in helping children to enjoy themselves in a safe and Christian environment. The past thirty-five years of Camp Shamrock has proven to be an effective influence on children who attend. As you have chosen to help and support the children, we wish to assure you of our care and support for you. *Camp Shamrock actively supports a ministry of mutual respect for others free from the impediments of sectarianism and prejudice.*