



Auti-Ms - Safeguarding Policy Statement

This is our overarching policy statement that reflects the safeguarding needs of the children, young people and adults who Auti-Ms works with and aligns with our other key safeguarding and organisational policies, procedures and standards.

The purpose and scope of this policy statement

Auti-Ms works with children, families and adults as part of its activities. These include holding a range of face to face and online activities, including workshops, support groups and drop-in sessions for families, girls and women to meet in a safe and relaxed environment.

The purpose of this policy statement is:

- to protect children, young people and adults who receive Auti-Ms's services. This includes the children of adults who use our services.
- to provide parents, trustees and volunteers with the overarching principles that guide our approach to child protection.

This policy statement applies to anyone working on behalf of Auti-Ms, including the board of trustees, volunteers and sessional volunteers.

Legal framework

This policy has been drawn up in regard to legislation, policy and guidance that seeks to protect children in England.

We believe that:

- Children, young people and adults should never experience abuse of any kind
- we have a responsibility to promote the welfare of all children, young people and adults to keep them safe and to practise in a way that protects them.

We recognise that:

- the welfare of the individual is paramount
- all individuals, regardless of age, disability, gender reassignment, race, religion or belief, sex, or sexual orientation have a right to equal protection from all types of harm or abuse
- some individuals are additionally vulnerable because of the impact of previous experiences, their level of dependency, communication needs or other issues
- working in partnership with children, young people, vulnerable adults, their parents, carers and other agencies is essential in promoting wellbeing.

We will seek to keep children, young people and vulnerable adults safe by:

- valuing, listening to and respecting them
- appointing a nominated child protection/safeguarding lead, a deputy child protection/safeguarding lead.
- developing child protection and safeguarding policies and procedures which reflect best practice
- using our safeguarding procedures to share concerns and relevant information with agencies who need to know, and involving children, young people, vulnerable adults, parents, families and carers appropriately
- creating and maintaining an anti-bullying environment and ensuring that we have a policy and procedure to help us deal effectively if any bullying was to arise
- developing and implementing an effective online safety policy and related procedures

- recruiting trustees and volunteers safely, ensuring all necessary checks are made
- providing effective management for trustees and volunteers through supervision, support, training and quality assurance measures
- implementing a code of conduct for trustees and volunteers
- using our procedures to manage any allegations against trustees and volunteers appropriately
- ensuring that we have effective complaints and whistleblowing measures in place
- ensuring that we provide a safe physical environment for our children, young people, vulnerable adults, trustees and volunteers, by applying health and safety measures in accordance with the law and regulatory guidance
- recording and storing information professionally and securely.

Related policies and procedures

This policy statement should be read alongside our organisational policies and procedures, including:

- Procedures for responding to concerns about a child, young person's and vulnerable adult's wellbeing
- Dealing with allegations of abuse against a child, young person or vulnerable adult.
- Role of the designated safeguarding lead.
- Managing allegations against trustees and volunteers
- Safer recruitment policy and procedures
- Adult to child supervision ratios
- Code of conduct for trustees and volunteers
- Anti-bullying policy and procedures
- Online safety policy and procedures for responding to concerns about online abuse
- Photography and image sharing guidance
- Child protection records retention and storage policy
- Whistleblowing policy

Contact details

Nominated child protection lead Name: Lorraine Gregory Email: Lorraine@auti-ms.co.uk	Deputy child protection lead Name(s): Gabi Oxley Email: Gabi@auti-ms.co.uk
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We are committed to reviewing our policy and good practice annually.

This policy was last reviewed on: 17/04/2025 Signed: Gabi Oxley