

## Professional Code of Conduct

Professional practice must operate within clearly defined limits which will vary according to the age of the child/young person and the role of the individual.

### The following principles must guide practice at all times

- Treat all children/young people with respect and dignity
- Put the welfare of the child/young person first
- Treat all children/young people equally

### Individuals associated with S.O.G.A. should

- See the child/young person in the context of his or her family situation and be aware of differences in family structures in society;
- Be aware that the care of the child/young person is a shared responsibility which must take account of the customs, values and beliefs of the association/host family; and work in a cooperative and collaborative manner with the family to promote and safeguard the well-being of the child/ children/ young person.

### Professional practice

Individuals associated with S.O.G.A. should:

- Ensure that no action is taken, or omission made, which is detrimental to the welfare and safety of, or that hinders the development of, the child.
- Maintain the highest possible standards of performance, and aim to improve their knowledge, skills and competencies.
- Constantly evaluate and appraise their own methods, policies and practices and be aware of the need to keep up-to-date with current developments in the light of changing needs and circumstances.
- Be aware of the need for confidentiality within their professional practice. Confidential information received should not be disclosed unless required by law or to protect the interests or welfare of the child.