

**SNIPEF TRAINING SERVICES LTD**

# **SAFEGUARDING AND WHY IS IT IMPORTANT?**

**APPRENTICE GUIDE**

## **SNIPEF Training Services Ltd - Apprentice Guide – Safeguarding and why is it Important**

### **Safeguarding and why is it Important?**

Starting an apprenticeship is an exciting time, full of new opportunities and challenges. As you embark on your journey in the Plumbing and Heating Industry, it's essential to understand the importance of safeguarding. But what does safeguarding really mean, and why should it matter to you as an apprentice?

### **What is Safeguarding?**

Safeguarding is all about protecting individuals especially children, young people, and vulnerable adults from harm, abuse, neglect, and exploitation. It's about creating safe environments where people can thrive without fear. For apprentices like you, safeguarding ensures that you are supported, treated fairly, and protected while at work or in training.

Safeguarding involves:

- **Preventing harm:** This includes protecting you from physical, emotional, or mental harm.
- **Promoting wellbeing:** Ensuring that your needs are met, and you have access to resources that support your mental and emotional health.
- **Empowering you to speak up:** Encouraging open communication so you feel comfortable raising concerns or seeking help if something doesn't feel right.

### **Why is Safeguarding Important?**

Your wellbeing is the foundation for your success, both in your apprenticeship and beyond. Safeguarding ensures you have the right support system to focus on learning and growing in your chosen field without distractions or concerns about your safety.

Here are a few key reasons why safeguarding matters:

- **A safe workplace:** Safeguarding ensures that your work environment is free from bullying, harassment, discrimination, or unsafe practices.
- **Mental health support:** Knowing that help is available if you're feeling stressed, overwhelmed, or in need of guidance.
- **Equal opportunities:** Ensuring you are treated fairly and with respect, regardless of your background, gender, ethnicity, or other characteristics.

### **How Safeguarding Applies to Apprentices**

As an apprentice, safeguarding covers every aspect of your training and work life. Whether you're on-site, in the classroom, or interacting with colleagues and supervisors, safeguarding measures are in place to support and protect you.

Key examples of safeguarding in action include:

- **Inductions and policies:** During your induction, you'll learn about safeguarding policies and who to contact if you need help.
- **Support networks:** Your employer and training provider work together to ensure you have access to mentors, Safeguarding Officers, and other support systems.

- **Raising concerns:** If something doesn't feel right whether it's bullying, unsafe working conditions, or inappropriate behaviour you should feel empowered to speak up.

### Your Role in Safeguarding

Safeguarding is a shared responsibility. While your employer and training provider have measures in place to protect you, it's also important for you to be aware of your own role in this process:

- **Be vigilant:** Look out for your own safety and the safety of others.
- **Speak up:** Don't hesitate to report concerns to your employer, tutor, or designated Safeguarding Officer.
- **Seek support:** If you're struggling with anything, remember there are people and resources available to help.

### Final Thoughts

Safeguarding is about ensuring you feel safe, respected, and supported as you develop your skills and build your career. By understanding what safeguarding is and why it's important, you'll be better equipped to make the most of your apprenticeship experience while knowing that your wellbeing is always a priority.

If you have any questions or concerns in relation to safeguarding, we encourage you to reach out to the SNIPEF Training Services Ltd Safeguarding Officer. For additional information, access to resources, or details about safeguarding training, please contact SNIPEF Training Services Ltd directly or visit our website at [www.becomeaplumber.org](http://www.becomeaplumber.org). We are here to support you every step of the way.



