

This policy follows the guidance given by the Charity Commission (Safeguarding Children, March 2009¹) and adheres to all relevant statutory requirements. This policy acts as the Club's Child Protection Policy. In this policy, 'child'/'children' means people aged up to 18.

The Club is committed to safeguarding children from harm. The Club's committee and its members uphold the position that the welfare of the child is paramount and that all children without exception have the right to protection from abuse regardless of gender, ethnicity, disability, sexuality or beliefs. Any concerns and allegations of abuse will be responded to swiftly and with sensitivity (this may require a referral to children's services or in an emergency, the Police).

Club and other meetings

Club members are not required to undergo a Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) check as the norm, however a DBS may be appropriate under special circumstances should activities involve prolonged or regular contact with young people. The appropriateness of whether or not a DBS check is required will be discussed and agreed by the member affected and the Membership Secretary. It is expected that any child attending a Club event or events at which the Club is represented will be accompanied by a responsible adult.

Data Protection and Photography

Children's contact details and images will be treated with respect. They will be used only by those who have a legitimate need to do so. Approval will be sought from the parents/guardians before any images are used publicly or for PR purposes. Children and their parents can ask for data which identifies them/their children to be deleted at any time.

Reporting

Any concerns over child protection should be reported without delay either to the President or the Membership Secretary. Written, dated notes should be kept of any incident(s). Guidance on what may be considered as child abuse is available from the NSPCC website².

This policy is approved and endorsed by the Club's committee. It applies to all members and volunteers. Children, young people, teachers and parents can ask to see a copy of this policy at any time.

To be reviewed annually by the President and Membership Secretary.

Last reviewed: August 2019

¹ <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/safeguarding-duties-for-charity-trustees>

² <https://www.nspcc.org.uk/preventing-abuse/keeping-children-safe/>