

Quekett Microscopical Club

Safeguarding children and vulnerable adults policy

This policy follows the guidance given by the Charity Commission (Safeguarding children or adults at risk 6 December 2017, updated 25 October 2018¹) 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.

Safeguarding children duties apply to any charity working with, or coming into contact with, anyone under the age of 18.

Safeguarding children means to:

- protect children from abuse and maltreatment
- prevent harm to children's health or development
- ensure children grow up with the provision of safe and effective care
- take action to enable all children and young people to have the best outcomes.

Safeguarding adults at risk means protecting their right to live in safety and free from abuse and neglect.

Safeguarding duties for adults at risk apply to any charity working with anyone aged 18 or over who:

- has needs for care and support (whether or not the local authority is meeting any of those needs) and
- is experiencing, or is at risk of, abuse or neglect
- as a result of those care and support needs is unable to protect themselves from either the risk of, or the experience of abuse or neglect.

An adult at risk of abuse may:

- have an illness affecting their mental or physical health
- have a learning disability
- suffer from drug or alcohol problems
- be frail

The Club is committed to safeguarding children and vulnerable adults from harm. The Club's committee and its members uphold the position that the welfare of the child/vulnerable adult is paramount and that all children/vulnerable adults 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, local authority safeguarding children or adults board or in an emergency, the Police).

¹ <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/safeguarding-duties-for-charity-trustees#children-adults-at-risk>

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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/vulnerable 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 under the age of 16 attending a Club event or events at which the Club is represented will be accompanied by a responsible adult.

Discrimination, harassment and bullying are unacceptable. Members who present these behaviours or who are believed to be taking advantage of a vulnerable adult should be challenged and, if necessary, barred from attending activities. Officers who abuse their position in any way may be required to step down and should not take up any future officer role.

Data Protection and Photography

Children's/vulnerable adult'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/vulnerable adults and their parents/guardians can ask for data which identifies them/their children to be deleted at any time.

Reporting

Any concerns over safeguarding and protection should be reported without delay to both the President and 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, parents and guardians can ask to see a copy of this policy at any time.

To be reviewed annually by the President and Honorary Secretary.

Last reviewed: October 2019

² <https://www.nspcc.org.uk/what-is-child-abuse/>