

Clevedon and District Model Boat Club

Child and Vulnerable Adult Protection Policy

Clevedon and District Model Boat Club (hereinafter the C&DMBC) has introduced a child and vulnerable adult protection policy.

This policy will apply to all members of the C&DMBC when attending any Club event or activity and when representing C&DMBC at events, shows exhibitions etc.

C&DMBC believe that model boating should be available to all and by providing a safe and enjoyable environment for children and vulnerable adults they, and their parents, guardians and carers can be confident about participating in Club activities.

Definitions:

- A child is a person under 18 years of age.
- A vulnerable adult is a person aged 18 years or over who due to mental or physical conditions requires a higher level of supervision than an adult, to protect them from harm or exploitation.
- A member is an individual who has paid their annual club subscription

The care and welfare of children is everyone's responsibility, particularly when it concerns protection from abuse. There is a responsibility on everyone to "*do what is reasonable in all circumstances for the purpose of safeguarding or promoting the child's welfare.*" However the parents, guardians, carers and friends also have a vital part to play.

Similar principles also apply to vulnerable adults and although the legislation is different the same guidelines can apply.

Abuse can occur anywhere where there are children: at home, in school, in the park and at the club site. A small minority will seek to be with children simply to obtain gratification from abuse. Similarly, abuse can occur simply because those involved lack the knowledge to prevent the situation arising.

The following simple principles apply to promote the protection of children:

- The child's welfare is the first consideration.
- All children regardless of their age, gender, disability, race, religion or sexual identity have the right to be protected from abuse and to be treated with dignity.
- All those working with children should have the knowledge and awareness to permit them to make informed decisions to prevent placing themselves or children at risk.
- All suspicions and allegations of abuse will be taken seriously and responded to swiftly and appropriately
- Caring is largely a matter of common sense provided everyone is clear on what is expected of them and a few simple principles are adhered to. It is not a responsibility to be feared but is essential if we are to ensure that we are to be a club that offers opportunities for all.

Any child abuse or vulnerable adult concerns or allegations, and any comments or questions regarding the policy, should be directed to the Club Chairman or Club Secretary.

Policy guidelines;

All members are required to respect the rights and dignity of children and vulnerable adults and to promote their welfare.

- *Parents, guardians or carers will be expected to always accompany their children or vulnerable adults on club events or activities; they will be responsible for their protection and their behaviour. It is therefore not expected that children or vulnerable adults will attend club activities on their own.*
- No member is to be expected to assume responsibility for a child or a vulnerable adult unless he/she has been specifically requested to do so by the parent, guardian or carer.
- Notwithstanding the requirements of the previous paragraph, should a member discover a child or vulnerable adult that is unsupervised then he/she must assume responsibility for that person's safety in the first instance. The situation should then be rectified as soon as possible by seeking out the parent, guardian, carer. Any instance of such an occurrence is to be reported to the club committee as soon as possible and a record made of the occurrence.
- Members should not be alone with children or vulnerable adults and a minimum of two adults need to be present at events or activities involving children and vulnerable adults.
- All members have a statutory duty of care towards all other club members regardless of age, disability, race, religion, gender or sexual identity
- No child or vulnerable adult shall undertake any activity which might place him or her at risk.
- Children and vulnerable adults must be supervised at all times
- Whilst supervising children or vulnerable adults, members should avoid placing themselves in a position that could be open to misinterpretation or question in accordance with this policy. Remember, the policy is there to protect you as well as children and vulnerable adults.
- Should any member, parent, guardian, carer or the person themselves have concerns about the welfare of children or vulnerable adults then he or she is to contact either the clubs chairman or secretary,
- Any allegations or concerns will be investigated, and if necessary pursued, by the above in accordance with the Child Protection Policy Guidelines, which will be available for viewing via a link on the Club website
www.clevedonanddistrictmodelboatclub.co.uk

- Parents, guardians and carers need to be aware that whilst this Club has a moral and statutory duty to take all reasonable steps to ensure the general welfare and protection of children and vulnerable adults, in particular during the actual act of operating model boats and associated tasks, the Club will not undertake the all encompassing responsibilities of those acting in the role of guardians or carers.
- The Club is committed to following the relevant governing body guidelines on the protection of children and vulnerable adults.
- The purpose of this policy is to safeguard the welfare of children attending the Club by protecting them from physical, sexual and emotional harm.
- This policy will be reviewed and updated from time to time in line with experience, best practice and statutory obligations with regard to child and vulnerable adult protection.
- This policy is dated 21 October 2018 and will be reviewed in 12 months time,
The Policy was reviewed on the 15 October 2019 with no changes required

