

Whitstable Yacht Club Safeguarding and Child Protection Policy Statement

As defined in the Children Act 1989, for the purposes of this policy anyone under the age of 18 should be considered as a child. The policy also applies to vulnerable adults.

It is the policy of WYC to safeguard children and young people taking part in boating from physical, sexual or emotional harm. We will take all reasonable steps to ensure that, through appropriate procedures and training, children participating in club activities do so in a safe environment. We recognise that the safety and welfare of the child is paramount and that all children, whatever their age, gender, disability, culture, ethnic origin, colour, religion or belief, social status or sexual identity, have a right to protection from abuse.

WYC recognises that safeguarding children is the responsibility of everyone, not just those who work with children. We therefore expect all members to treat all children with respect and celebrate their achievements. All members should be encouraged to demonstrate exemplary behaviour in order to protect themselves from false allegations. The following are common sense examples of how to create a positive culture and climate within Club organised activities:

- Avoid spending any significant time working with children in isolation
- Treat all young people equally, with respect and dignity.
- Make sailing fun, enjoyable and promote fair play.
- Ensure that if any form of manual support or physical contact is required (e.g. assisting in launching/recovery of boats, pulling out of water into safety boat, etc.) this is minimised and provided openly. Where practical, it should be explained to the child what is happening.
- Involve parents/carers wherever possible, e.g. for the responsibility of their children in the changing rooms*
- Use of inappropriate language by children, and by adults in the hearing of children, should be challenged.
- If a child is having difficulty with a wetsuit or buoyancy aid, ask them to ask a friend to help if at all possible
- If you do have to help a child, make sure you are in full view of others, preferably another adult

You should never:

- allow or engage in inappropriate physical contact
- allow children to use inappropriate language unchallenged, or use such language yourself when with children
- make sexually suggestive comments to a child, even in fun
- fail to respond to an allegation made by a child; always act
- do things of a personal nature that children can do for themselves

*It is preferable for adults to stay away from the changing rooms while there are children there. However, this is often unavoidable because adults are sailing at the same times, it is therefore better if one adult is not alone when children are present. Parents should be aware that adult club members may be in the changing rooms.

Child Welfare Contacts:

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