

Responsibilities of Parents/ The Club

Ultimate responsibility for the safety and behaviour of children/ cadets lies with the parents. However, the Club recognises that it has a duty of care when cadets are under the supervision of instructors.

Parents must be aware of the following:

Cadet Training Sessions

- Parents are responsible for signing cadets in and out of sessions
- Parents are required to stay on site throughout the whole duration of a training session
- Parents need to help with rigging, launching, and recovering.

Cadets who are acting in the capacity of trainers/ instructors are not required to sign in, but are under the direct supervision of the adult instructors

Cadet Membership/ Race Days

If a cadet member participates in a regular Club Race, the parents are solely responsible for their attendance and supervision. All such cadets will be regarded as regular Club members in regards to their general well-being and safety on the water, but otherwise parents are responsible for them.

Stay covered!

In order to safeguard the interests of all members, WYC require that swimsuits or underwear are worn at all times by members whilst using the changing rooms and showers.



Whitstable Yacht Club

Child Welfare Policy 2025

Guidance for members and cadets

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 set a positive example.

All members and cadets have a responsibility to ensure that everyone at the club feels safe and is able to raise any concerns if they arise.

Guidance for adults working with cadets

The following are common sense examples of how to create a positive culture and climate within Club-organised activities. This guidance is as much about protecting children from abusive treatment as protecting adults from any potential allegations of abuse or misconduct.

- 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.
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- 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.

Guidance for cadets

You have the right to enjoy your activities at the Club free from any form of discrimination or abuse.

All adults at the Club who are involved in working with cadets and children at the Club have read and agreed to the guidance on the previous page.

If at any point you feel that an adult has not followed this guidance, or you have not been treated fairly or with respect, or feel that an adult has gone beyond what you feel to be an acceptable level of behaviour towards you or other cadets/ children, then please speak to a trusted adult within the Club or who you feel can speak on your behalf to the child welfare officers at the Club.

The child welfare contacts at the Club are:

Paul Cross



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