



Wealden Sailability

Child and Vulnerable Adult Protection Policy

Policy Statement

Wealden Sailability(WS) is committed to protecting children and vulnerable adults from harm.

The WS Child and Vulnerable Adult Protection Policy and Good Practice Guidelines are there to be acted upon to protect all participants and volunteers.

WS is committed to reviewing its policy and good practice guide at regular intervals. A Trustee will be appointed with specific responsibility for this policy. The current nominated Trustee is Steve Thomas.

All volunteers will be asked to go through the Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) administered for WS by the RYA.

New participants and volunteers will be informed of and directed to our Child and Vulnerable Adult Protection Policy/Good Practice guide. Volunteers will be expected to read the policy and follow the advice given in the following Good Practice Guide.

Good Practice Guide

Promoting good practice can reduce the possibility of potentially abusive situations and help to protect both participants and volunteers. The following are examples of care which should be followed:

- Always be publicly open when with children and vulnerable adults. Avoid situations where you are unobserved with Child/Vulnerable adult.

- If any form of physical/manual support is required, there should always be at least 2 members present. Care is needed, as it is difficult maintaining hand positions when assisting in and out of boats or assisting with clothing/buoyancy equipment.
- Do not spend time alone with children and vulnerable adults. If sailing in a 2-person boat with a participant always try and sail within sight of other boats.
- Do not allow or engage in any form of inappropriate touching
- Do not allow anyone to use inappropriate language
- Do not make sexually suggestive or age-inappropriate comments to a child/vulnerable adult, even in fun
- Do not allow allegations made by a child/vulnerable adult to go unchallenged, unrecorded, or not acted upon. **If in doubt talk to a WS Trustee immediately.**
- Do not take photographs of WS vulnerable adults or children without the permission of the Carer or parent.
- Do not do things of a personal nature for children/vulnerable adults they can do for themselves. Wherever possible ask the carer to be involved in helping/assisting preparations for getting in to/out of boats.
- Don't give your email address, phone or mobile phone number to a child or vulnerable adult: ensure any on-going communication is made via the Trustees. Also do not accept friends' requests or similar on social media.
- At times when Chipstead Sailing Club or other users of the lake have children using the club facilities then any WS participants accompanied by a carer will be restricted to using the disabled toilet unless accompanied by the carer in both the toilet area and changing rooms/showers. Volunteers and WS adult participants using the changing rooms/toilets should do so with another adult present to avoid being left alone with children.

End

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