

SAFEGUARDING

It is the policy of Whitefriars Sailing Club to safeguard children, young people, and vulnerable adults taking part in its activities from physical, sexual or emotional harm, neglect or bullying. The Club will take all reasonable steps to ensure that, through appropriate procedures and training, all child and adult participants in Club activities do so in a safe environment. We recognise that the safety and welfare of the child is paramount and that everyone, whatever their age, gender, disability, culture, ethnic origin, colour, religion or belief, social status or sexual identity, has a right to protection from abuse.

The Club requires all its members to be aware of both the Club Safeguarding Children Policy and the Club Safeguarding Vulnerable Adults Policy. They are available in the Club Documents and on the website. The following is a brief synopsis of the essential points of good practice when working with children, young people and vulnerable adults. If members are involved in Instructing, Coaching or acting as Volunteers in the Junior or Training section, or with Sailability, then they will be given more detailed guidelines.

There is a Club Safeguarding Officer – see the Handbook for contact details.

Anyone under the age of 18 is considered to be a child.

In general, members should

- Avoid spending any significant time working with children or vulnerable adults in isolation
- 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 or vulnerable person, make sure you are in full view of others, preferably another adult.
- Report any concerns to the Club Safeguarding Officer promptly, and in strict confidence.

Members should never

- Engage in rough, physical or sexually provocative games.
- Allow or engage in inappropriate touching of any form.
- Allow children to use inappropriate language unchallenged, or use such language themselves.
- Make sexually suggestive comments even in fun.
- Fail to respond to an allegation made by a child or vulnerable person. Always act.
- Do things of a personal nature that a child or adult can do for him/herself.
- Take or publish images of children at the Club without consent.

It may sometimes be necessary to do things of a personal nature to help someone, particularly if they are very young or disabled. These tasks should only be carried out with the full understanding and consent of the individual child or adult (where possible) and their parents/carers. In an emergency situation, which requires this type of help, parents/carers should be fully informed. In such situations, it is important to ensure that any adult present is sensitive to the child or vulnerable adult and undertakes personal care tasks with the greatest of care and prudence.