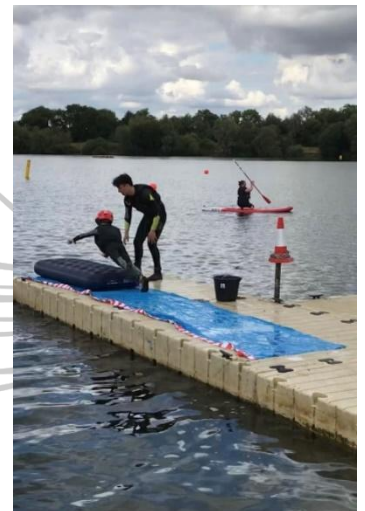




# ***Whitefriars Sailing Club, Juniors*** ***Group Strategy 2023-2028***

***Date: 04 January 2024***



# FOREWORD

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We have developed our strategy as a result of the fantastic successes and hard work from our Committee, Instructors, Helpers, Parents/Guardians, Students and the wider.

The Juniors group has grown over the years and has a tremendously positive impact on the club, through our sailing activities and more importantly through our community ethos. This positive ethos will be transferred into the club when our young sailors move onto young adult memberships.

Sailing is a wonderful sport that teaches young people valuable skills such as teamwork, resilience, and problem-solving. Being part of a sailing club provides a supportive and inclusive environment where juniors can develop their skills and make lifelong friendships.

One of the unique aspects of our Juniors group is that it is run by the parents, who volunteer their time and expertise, to provide the best possible experience for our young sailors. As our juniors grow older, they have the opportunity to become instructors and share their knowledge with the next generation of sailors. They also have the chance to get involved in the wider club community by participating in races and other activities.

The Juniors group strategy is owned by its members and this document outlines its vision, goals and ambitions and how those aims can be achieved. It provides a focus for the group to realise its full potential to the benefit of individuals, the group and Whitefriars SC.

We have addressed how we will tailor our approach to the group, maximising the potential benefits, remaining inclusive to all and keeping a focus on sustainment and growth.

The vision outlines our key leadership aspirations:

- That activities are focused on the students and club;
- That our environment is a secure and safe place;
- That we are inclusive to all and have confidence in ourselves, our sailors and group.
- That our activities and services rest on flexible, scalable and efficient foundations.

We are sure that with the collaboration of our talented committee, students, parents, friends, and supporters, the goals we aspire to accomplish will in time translate into achievements of which we can all be proud.

By investing in the future of our Juniors group, we are investing in a positive future for Whitefriars Sailing Club.

We would like to heartily thank the executive committee, the parents, and all those involved in developing this strategy for their hard work and dedication. We look forward to seeing the positive impact that this plan will have on our juniors and our club as a whole.

Yours Sincerely

The Juniors Committee.

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# INTRODUCTION

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## Whitefriars Sailing Club Background

Situated on the stunning Cotswold Water Park, Whitefriars is run by the members for the members. We believe that by striking a healthy balance between competition and fun we can give everyone access to the same opportunities to learn, improve and participate as much or as little as they want<sup>1</sup>.

As a family friendly club, parents/guardians get involved with our busy Juniors programme making full use of the club's extensive dinghy fleet. Our qualified volunteer instructors lead fun sessions throughout the year, designed to build confidence and work towards the RYA Youth Sailing Scheme syllabus.

## Whitefriars Sailing Club Vision

The Juniors group is fully integrated within our club and therefore our strategy is aligned to the overall club vision:

*Creating a sailing club that supports our members to enjoy and grow in sailing with a welcoming, family friendly approach.*

## Juniors

Our active Juniors group which is run by parents/guardians, meets on various dates throughout the summer season, enjoying a broad range of training, social events (including our Annual Regatta) and many other fun-filled activities.

As an RYA Recognised Training Centre, we use the RYA Youth Sailing Scheme syllabus as a basis for fun sessions, making use of the extensive fleet of boats according to the conditions. Our aim is that the children safely acquire good sailing skills, a love of sailing and to develop interpersonal skills.

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<sup>1</sup> <https://www.whitefriarssc.org/about>

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# JUNIORS VISION

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Our strategy for the next 3-5 years is based on the following vision and blueprint for the future:

## Vision

*To provide young sailors of all abilities with a safe, fun and welcoming environment in which to start and develop their sailing adventure.*

## Juniors Mission Statement

To provide a safe, adaptable and fun pathway into sailing activities for young people and to support them in developing their sailing and personal skills in whichever direction they wish. We will do this by having fun on the water whilst developing sailing skills and competence within the RYA Youth Sailing Schemes.

## Objectives

- To develop and improve our member's<sup>2</sup> sailing, personal skills and confidence whilst maintaining the ethos of 'having fun'. To develop our parents and guardians to help us deliver a child-based programme by having more shore help, and encouraging the next generation of instructors and committee.
- To develop our Juniors group into a community, led by parents/guardians, instructors and our members.
- To assist young people to discover the joy of sailing through regular training and coaching by qualified RYA instructors, leading to RYA qualifications with the knowledge and ability to implement those skills in a safe and practical manner.
- To provide a safe, diverse and inclusive environment for all our members to learn, contribute and be part of our community.
- To provide a safe, diverse and inclusive environment for all our members.
- To maintain a low-cost entry requirement to recreational and instructional sailing.

## Guiding Principles and Aspirations

- As a club, we value our junior members and are committed to ensuring that as many young people as possible can get involved in sailing and progress at their own pace.
- In addition to tuition, we will provide opportunities for racing, social activities, and to explore sailing at other clubs and locations.

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<sup>2</sup> Members is defined as our young sailors, their parents or guardians, our committee, helpers and instructors.

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- The Juniors group should have a team and community spirit where members work together to ensure that our young members get the most out of their sailing experience. Lifelong friendships are made on and off the water, which makes their journey even more special and valuable.
  - We provide our young sailors with opportunities to develop their skills and experience through the RYA Youth Sailing Scheme, including the advanced modules and instructing qualifications.
  - We will conduct our management processes and planning in a fair and transparent manner, with clear and precise communications to all.
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# APPROACH

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Our vision and objectives were developed by listening to our community and reviewing our members and club's requirements.

**A community.** We strive to foster a community environment, encouraging all members to contribute to our sailing and non-sailing activities.

- a. The involvement of parents, guardians, carers or responsible adults is essential for smoothly running of the sessions and the planning of extra activities.
- b. Social events will be a key feature of our yearly plan. These will help to bring our community together and will encourage communications, team work and friendships to flourish. Non-sailing events will included, such as days out to neighbouring adventure training centres.

**Instructors.** To support our aspirations of a "community feel" within our juniors, we will develop our volunteer instructors training plan to provide compliant instruction and to safeguard the future of the group. We will encourage and provide training courses within sailing, powerboating and the essential roles such as race officer, safety boat and shore support.

**Training.** We will continue to align our training development on the RYA Youth Sailing Scheme and where possible adopt the RYA Get On Board scheme<sup>3</sup>. Our training records will be updated after each session, allowing for planning of future sessions and issuing of qualifications in a timely manner.

**Racing.** The use of racing during sessions is an effective training aid. We will aim to provide race training and racing during our normal Saturday sessions. This also has the benefit of providing the necessary experience and skills to join in with our wider club racing. Racing will however be used as training aid and not as a primary output of our community.

- a. Support and encouragement will be provided to our sailors who are keen to enter local racing and national class events.

**Neighbouring Clubs.** We will establish and maintain relationships with our neighbouring clubs, for the sharing of resources and inter-club regattas. This will help the efficiencies of our group, provide inter-club opportunities and introduce our members to other clubs operating procedures, and sailing conditions.

**Cost.** Juniors is committed to ensuring that our opportunities are open to all and we aim to keep participant costs to a minimum to ensure a low barrier to entry but also balanced with the need to maintain and update our equipment.

**Fleet.** We will continue to be flexible with our choice of fleet and will ensure that we have relevant and modern boats for our community to use. We will continue to utilise RS Teras, Fevas and Oppies

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<sup>3</sup> <https://www.rya.org.uk/start-boating/get-onboard-childrens-sailing>

OnBoard is the RYA's children's sailing and windsurfing programme. It offers children the opportunity to try watersports through their local Club or centre in a safe, fun and structured environment.

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as our main training fleet and will invest in an exciting yet practical Double Handers for the Youth Development Squad (YDS) to gain experience of a high-performance boat, such as an RS200 or 420. The club's racing fleet regularly sees Lasers/ILCA taking part. To maximise on the ease of entry to club racing and familiar boats, we will invest in some Lasers to encourage the transition from YDS to club racing.

**EDI.** We will remain committed to being a community who believes in equality, diversity and inclusion by providing a safe and open place for our members, families, instructors and guests to express their individuality and to be treated equally. We will compile an EDI policy that sets out clear behaviours that we will all abide by, encourage in others and where necessary enforce, to ensure a safe environment for all.

Yours aye

Whitefriars Sailing Club Juniors Group

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