



CODE OF BEHAVIOUR WHEN WORKING WITH CHILDREN

DO

- Make sure all staff and volunteers at your group have read and understand the Child Protection Policy and Procedure to report child protection cases appropriately.
- Treat everyone with respect.
Don't promise confidentiality when it cannot be upheld.
- Provide an example you wish others to follow.
- Plan activities which involve more than one adult being present or at least within sight or hearing of others.
- Respect a person's right to personal privacy.
- Encourage young people and adults to feel comfortable and caring enough to point out attitudes and behaviour they do not like.
- Remember someone might misinterpret your actions and your comments no matter how well intentioned.
- Recognise that caution is required even in sensitive moments of counselling, such as when dealing with bullying, bereavement or abuse.
- Have separate sleeping accommodation for leaders and male and female young people on residential and ensure all reasonable precautions are taken to protect young people from 'outsiders'.
- Be aware of the possible implications of physical contact with young people (dancing/games).
- CRB check all staff and volunteers including members of committees.
- Display the Childline number in your meeting place. **CHILDLINE 0800 1111.**
- Create an environment where young people are encouraged to talk about themselves, their lives and any concerns they may have – listen to them.
- Seek the permission of parent/guardian before using photographs/images of children and young people.

DO NOT

- Permit abusive youth peer activities (e.g. initiation ceremonies, ridiculing, bullying and racial taunts).
- Jump to conclusions.
- Allow yourself to be drawn into any inappropriate attention seeking behaviour by young people such as tantrums or crushes. Think about your own behaviour.
- Exaggerate or trivialise child abuse issues.
- Show favouritism to any individual.
- Make suggestive remarks or gestures.
- Rely on your good name to protect you.
- Believe 'it could never happen to me' (both dealing with abuse or being accused of).
- Take children to your home or on a car journey, however short.
- ***DO NOT APPROACH A SUSPECTED ABUSER YOURSELF.***