



Safeguarding – Acceptable behaviour guidance

As a club we have a responsibility to protect all members. Members have an amazing amount of knowledge and enthusiasm and we would like all new sailors to benefit from it.

As members we all interact with children and vulnerable adults. To do this we should:

- Build relationships based on mutual trust and respect
- Work in an open environment
- Communicate clearly with members, parents and participants

Suggestions for interactions with our younger members.

- Try to avoid physical contact with young people
- Of course it's fine to handle a child in an emergency situation, whether it's rescuing them from the water or giving first aid. Try to tell the child what you're planning to do before you do it, and make a report of the incident to the office or coxswain at the earliest opportunity
- If you are kind enough to offer a child a sail in your boat, ensure it's with their parents' full knowledge and consent before you ask the child and there is safety cover available at that time
- Think very carefully before contacting a young person via mobile phone, email or social media. In general stick to group communications. If it's essential to send an individual message, where possible copy the communication to a parent and only communicate about organisational matters
- Don't offer or give a child a lift in your car without agreement from a parent first

If you have a concern about a child, young adult or vulnerable adult:

A concern may involve the behaviour of an adult towards a child at the club, or something that has happened to the child outside the club. Children may confide in adults they trust, in a place where they feel comfortable. An allegation may range from verbal bullying, to inappropriate contact online, to neglect or emotional abuse, to physical or sexual abuse.

If you are concerned about a child, it is not your responsibility to investigate further, but it is your responsibility to act on your concerns and report them. **DO NOT discuss or share this information with other members or staff.** This could undermine any investigation and can cause unfounded rumours.

Pass the information directly to our Safeguarding Team who will follow the club's procedures. These can be found on our website.

You can contact the safeguarding team directly; we are:

Sara Collard, Ian Fairclough and Jacqui Donley

You can Email: safeguarding@grafham.org

Or Tel: 07712 898955

Listen to and make a record of anything the child tells you or that you have observed. Please include times and dates.

Don't ask questions, but make it clear that you will need to tell someone else in order to help them.

RYA Safeguarding Manager

Tel: 023 8060 4104 E-mail: safeguarding@rya.org.uk

If you believe a child or adult is at immediate risk of harm, call the Police.