

## CODE OF BEHAVIOUR



- Do** keep to this code at all times.
- Do** treat everyone with dignity and respect.
- Do** set an example for others to follow.
- Do** treat all young people equally – do not show favouritism.
- Do** plan activities that involve more than one other person being present, or at least are within sight and hearing of others.
- Do** follow the recommended adult-to-young-people ratios for meetings and activities.
- Do** respect a young person's right to personal privacy.
- Do** avoid unacceptable situations within a relationship of trust, for example a sexual relationship with a young person who is over the age of consent.

- Do** have separate sleeping accommodation for young people, adults and Young Leaders working with a younger section.
- Do** allow young people to talk about any concerns they may have.
- Do** encourage others to challenge attitudes or behaviour they do not like.
- Do** avoid being drawn into inappropriate attention-seeking behaviour, for example tantrums and crushes.
- Do** make everyone – young people, parents and carers, Young Leaders and other helpers – aware of our safeguarding arrangements.
- Do** remember this code at sensitive moments, for example when helping someone who has been bullied, bereaved or abused.
- Do** tell other leaders where you are and what you are doing.
- Do** remember someone else might misinterpret your actions, even if you mean well.
- Do** take allegations or concerns of abuse seriously and refer them to your Group Scout Leader or District Commissioner immediately.

- Do not** trivialise abuse.
- Do not** form a relationship with a young person that is an abuse of trust.
- Do not** drink alcohol when you are directly responsible for young people and never allow young people on Scouting activities to drink alcohol.
- Do not** allow abusive activities, for example initiation ceremonies or bullying.
- Do not** take part in inappropriate behaviour or contact, whether physical, verbal or sexual.
- Do not** take part in physical contact games with young people.
- Do not** make suggestive remarks or threats to a young person, even in fun.
- Do not** use inappropriate language when writing, phoning, texting, emailing or using the internet (including social media).
- Do not** let allegations, suspicions or concerns about abuse go unreported.
- Do not** rely just on your good name to protect you.

## YOUNG PEOPLE FIRST Safeguarding – a code of practice

**It is the policy of The Scout Association to safeguard the welfare of all members by protecting them from neglect and from physical, sexual and emotional harm.**

### WHAT DO I DO IF...?

If you suspect a young person is being abused, a young person confides in you, someone has a concern or makes a complaint about any adult or about you, it is your duty to report it.

**If a young person tells you they are being abused, you should do the following.**

1. Allow them to speak without interruption and accept what they say.
2. Be understanding and reassuring but do not give your opinion.
3. Tell them that you will try to offer support but that you must pass the information on.
4. Tell your Group Scout Leader or District Commissioner immediately.
5. Write careful notes of what was said, using the actual words wherever possible.
6. Pass your notes to your Group Scout Leader or District Commissioner, making sure you sign and date them.
7. Make sure that Scouting activities pose no further risk to the welfare of young people.

**If you are concerned about a young person's safety and well-being, or there is a concern, complaint or allegation about an adult or yourself, you should do the following.**

1. Tell your Group Scout Leader or District Commissioner immediately.
2. Write careful notes of what you witnessed, heard or were told.
3. Sign, date and pass your notes to your Group Scout Leader or District Commissioner.
4. Make sure that Scouting activities pose no further risk to the welfare of young people.

If the young person is at immediate risk of significant harm, contact the police or social services. Tell your Group Scout Leader or District Commissioner when you have done this.

Any adult in Scouting has the right to report concerns or suspicions about another member in confidence and free from harassment.

**You must refer any concern or complaint to your Group Scout Leader or District Commissioner. DO NOT investigate it yourself.**

If you are in any doubt about what to do, contact the Scout Information Centre:  
**0345 300 1818** or email: [safeguarding@scouts.org.uk](mailto:safeguarding@scouts.org.uk)