

# 5<sup>th</sup> Dorking (URC) Scout Group

## Child Protection/ Safeguarding



Adopted by the Group Executive Committee on: 9<sup>th</sup> July 2015

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

Accordingly The Scout Association is committed to:

- taking into account in all its considerations and activities the interests and well-being of young people
- respecting the rights, wishes and feelings of the young people with whom it is working
- taking all reasonable practicable steps to protect them from physical, sexual and emotional harm
- promoting the welfare of young people and their protection within a relationship of trust.

### Code of Behaviour

**DO** put this code into practice at all times.

**DO** treat everyone with dignity and respect.

**DO** set an example you would wish others to follow.

**DO** treat all young people equally - show no 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 recommended adult/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 e.g. a sexual relationship with a youth Member 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 any attitudes or behaviours they do not like.

**DO** avoid being drawn into inappropriate attention seeking behaviour e.g. tantrums and crushes.

**DO** follow the Association's 'no alcohol' guidance when young people are in your care.

**DO** make everyone aware of the Association's child protection procedures - young people, parents/carers, Young Leaders and other helpers.

**DO** remember this code even at sensitive moments e.g. when responding to bullying, bereavement or abuse.

**DO** keep other Leaders informed of where you are and what you are doing.

**DO** remember someone else might misinterpret your actions, no matter how well-intentioned.

**DO** take any allegations or concerns of abuse seriously and refer immediately

**DO NOT** trivialise abuse.

**DO NOT** form a relationship with a young person that is an abuse of trust.

**DO NOT** permit abusive peer activities e.g. initiation ceremonies, bullying.

**DO NOT** engage in inappropriate behaviour or contact - physical, verbal, sexual.

**DO NOT** play 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 – writing, phoning, email or internet.

**DO NOT** let allegations, suspicions, or concerns about abuse go unreported.

**DO NOT** just rely on your good name to protect you.

**If you have a concern about a young person's safety and well-being:**

1. Immediately tell your Group Scout Leader or District Commissioner
2. Write careful notes of what you witnessed, heard or was told
3. Sign, date and pass your notes to your District Commissioner
4. Ensure that no Scouting situation arises which could cause any further concern

**If a young person tells you about abuse by someone else:**

1. Allow the young person to speak without interruption, accepting what is said
2. Offer immediate understanding and reassurance, while passing no judgement
3. Advise that you will try to offer support but that you must pass the information
4. Immediately tell your Group Scout Leader or District Commissioner
5. Write careful notes of what was said; use actual words wherever possible
6. Sign, date and pass your notes to your District Commissioner
7. Ensure that no Scouting situation arises which could cause any further concern

**Note:** *In an emergency (young person at imminent risk of significant harm) contact Police or Social Services direct. Inform your District Commissioner of the action you have taken.*

If you receive a complaint or allegation about any adult or about yourself:

**Immediately tell your: Group Scout Leader ([judicurrie@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:judicurrie@hotmail.co.uk)) 01306 885254 or**

**District Commissioner ([kielstra@f2s.com](mailto:kielstra@f2s.com)) 01737 842093**

1. Write careful notes of what you witnessed, heard or was told
2. Sign, date and pass your notes to your District Commissioner
3. Try to ensure no-one is placed in a position which could cause further compromise

**Note:** *Any Adult in Scouting has the right to report any concerns, or suspicions about another Member in confidence and free from harassment.*



**You must refer; you must not investigate.**

**'Young People First' – Yellow card (for Adults)**

**Orange Card (for Young Leaders)**

**'Safe and Sound' booklet (for parents)**

**Safeguarding in Scouting**

**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.**

We are committed to:

- Taking the interests and well-being of young people into account, in all our considerations and activities.
- Respecting the rights, wishes and feelings of the young people with whom we work.
- Taking all reasonable practicable steps to protect them from neglect, physical, sexual and emotional abuse.
- Promoting the welfare of young people and their protection within a position of trust.

**All adults in Scouting, including members of the Scout Network who wish to work with young people, are responsible for putting this policy into practice at all times.**

***An adult in Scouting has a responsibility to ensure that young people are protected from harm. It is the responsibility of each adult in Scouting to ensure that:***

- Their behaviour is appropriate at all times.
- They observe the rules established for the safety and security of young people.
- They follow the procedures following suspicion, disclosure or allegation of child abuse.
- They recognise the position of trust in which they have been placed.
- In every respect, the relationships they form with the young people under their care are appropriate.