

Adopted at Red Rope AGM 2026

SAFEGUARDING CHILDREN POLICY AND GUIDELINES

Red Rope has a positive attitude both towards introducing children to outdoor activities and to supporting parent Members in maximising their child's walking, climbing and mountaineering opportunities. All Members are, therefore, expected to show normal levels of care for the safety and well-being of children attending Club Events and Trips.

This Policy and Guidelines apply to all persons under the age of 18.

The term "parent" includes parent or legal guardian. Words used in the singular include the plural and vice versa.

Children Attending Club Events/Walks

Where a Member is intending to bring their child on a Club Event or Day walk they are advised, particularly if they are not familiar with the location, to contact the Trip/Walk Co-ordinator to discuss the safety of the venue/location. The Member bears full responsibility for deciding to take part in the Trip, and for their child throughout the stay or activity.

In addition to the above where a Member is intending to bring a child who is not theirs they should ensure that the parent of that child is aware of this Policy and Guidelines and gives their consent to the Member acting in Loco Parentis.

General Safety Considerations

Consideration should be given, by the parent or adult acting in loco parentis:

1. to the location of the Meet, given the age and ability of the child;
2. to the activity arranged for the Meet, and the safety of the child whilst the adult is participating; and
3. to the age and level of ability of the child generally.

Children Staying on Club Trips

Where a Member is intending to take a child to stay on a Club Trip, then in addition to the above they are advised to contact the Trip Organiser. The Club considers that it is not reasonable to expect Members and their guests to modify normal standards of behaviour on a Trip (subject to the Code of Conduct). Parents or adults acting in loco parentis are, at all times, responsible for the safety, care and control of any child. The Trip Organiser has the right to prevent a child from attending the Trip if they think it is inappropriate.

Additional Safety Considerations

1. The standard of hygiene and cleanliness may be less than at home.
2. There may not be guards on electrical sockets.

3. There may be open fires and/or hot surfaces.
4. Members may leave hot and cold drinks on the floor and low surfaces.
5. Members manoeuvring in congested car parks assume that adults will keep out of their way and they will not expect the presence of children.
6. Sleeping accommodation on trips varies and should be considered carefully.

Allegations of Abuse or Child Protection Issues

If, at any time during a child's attendance on an official trip, there is an allegation or suspicion of abuse, it must be reported to the parent or adult acting in loco parentis, and (where applicable) to the trip Co-ordinator, and the Club's Safeguarding Officer.

If the allegation could constitute a criminal offence then this should be referred to the police by the parent or adult acting in loco-parentis, or, failing them, by the adult whose concern has been aroused. Where there is doubt about how to proceed then advice can be sought from the Club's Safeguarding Officer.

Following any allegation of abuse the Club's Safeguarding Officer will advise the Committee on any possible changes to procedure which may avoid a similar occurrence.

Any other child safeguarding issues should be directed to the Club's Safeguarding Officer, whose details appear on the Club's Website.

There is a requirement placed on the Club by its insurers that all allegations of physical, emotional or sexual mistreatment or lack of care that could lead to a claim for damages are reported to them. The Club's Secretary must be informed of all such allegations so that this may be effected.

All trip organisers will have the details of how to ask for advice or information from or report an issue to the Safeguarding Officer.

Where a discrepancy exists between this policy and the BMC Safeguarding policy the BMC policy will prevail.

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