



# Child Protection Policy

December 2025

## 1 Safeguarding of Volunteers and Youth Members

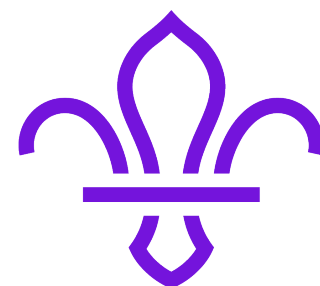
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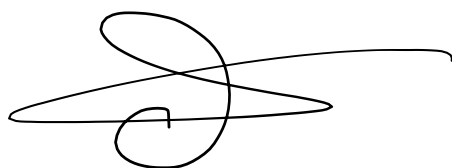
**Scouts**  
**22nd Stoke**

## Child Protection Policy

There is nothing more important to us than the safety and welfare of all the young people and volunteers who attend 22<sup>nd</sup> Stoke Scout Group. The Scout Association has a Child Protection policy in place for all adults in Scouting to follow. It is the policy of The Scout Association and 22<sup>nd</sup> Stoke Scout Group to safeguard the welfare of all members by protecting them from physical, sexual, or emotional harm and neglect.

The Scouts understand that individuals thrive in safe surroundings, so we are committed to ensuring that the Scouts is safe and enjoyable for everyone involved and that safeguarding practice reflects statutory responsibilities, government guidance and complies with best practice and The Charity Commission requirements.

To ensure that 22<sup>nd</sup> Stoke Scout Group protect their young people and volunteers to the best of their ability, the rules within [Scouts Safeguarding Policy & Procedures for Young People](#) are fully adhered to. This policy highlights how the procedures apply to the Group and ensures that all our young people and volunteers are kept safe.



David Dowley

Group Lead Volunteer

# 1 Safeguarding of Volunteers and Youth Members

## 1.1 Vetting Policy

22<sup>nd</sup> Stoke Scout Group works closely with The Scout Association and Three Towns District Scouts to ensure that:

- Only adults appropriate for a role are permitted to undertake responsibilities in the Scouts
- regular reviews are undertaken of adult volunteers to ensure their continued suitability.

As part of the Confidential Enquiry conducted for every adult appointment, a DBS check is conducted and references are taken. Every adult is also interviewed for the role applied for by another accredited group leader of experienced and unbiased opinion from outside of the Group to ensure that the role is suitable. This process is described within the [Vetting Policy](#).

## 1.2 Yellow Card for Conduct of Volunteers in Scouting

All leaders in the Scout Association are supplied with the "Yellow Card", which contains guidelines on a code of behaviour when dealing with young people. The 2024 revision of this Yellow Card is shown below:

Do remember that you are a role model at all times, inside and outside of Scouts. You must set a good example for others to follow.

Do treat everyone with dignity and respect in line with the Scout Values.

Do treat all young people equally – do not show favouritism

Do follow the adult-to-young-people ratios at all times.

Do remember that you have been placed in a position of trust – do not abuse this trust.

Do report all safeguarding concerns directly to the Safeguarding Team as soon as possible, and always within 24 hours

Do contact the Safeguarding Team if you receive details of any statutory agency (for example, the police, the Local Authority Designated Officer (LADO) or children's services) involvement regarding a member.

Do remember that someone may misinterpret your actions.

Do respect children's and young people's right to personal privacy.

Do act within appropriate boundaries, even in difficult circumstances.

Do encourage an open and transparent culture, where people challenge or report behaviour that is not in line with this code

Do make everyone aware of our safeguarding arrangements. Share our Yellow Card with volunteers, parents and guardians, and display it where meetings take place.

Do create an environment where children and young people feel safe and able to voice their concerns.

Do have separate sleeping accommodation for young people and adults, as well as young leaders working with a younger section.

Do plan activities that involve more than one other person being present. If that's not possible, make sure other people can see and hear what's going on.

Do not plan to be alone with a child or young person in Scouts, either online or in person.

Do not drink alcohol when you are directly responsible for children and young people in Scouts, and never allow under 18s to drink alcohol on Scout activities

Do not trivialise concerns or abuse.

Do not let concerns or abuse go unreported. Contact the Safeguarding Team, especially if you feel your concern has not been taken seriously.

Do not join in physical contact games with children and young people.

Do not overstep the boundaries with children and young people by being involved in friendships or personal relationships with them.

Do not allow activities that encourage bullying behaviour, including initiation ceremonies, dares or forfeits.

Do not use inappropriate, suggestive or threatening language, whether verbal, written or online.

Do not rely on your reputation or position to protect you.

Do not get involved with a safeguarding concern if you have a personal friendship or family connection with those involved. Step back and tell the Safeguarding Team about the connection.

## **1.3 Youth Members Code of Conduct & Anti-Bullying Policy**

“Children have the right to protection from all forms of violence (physical or mental). They must be kept safe from harm, and they must be given proper care by those looking after them.” [The United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child, Article 19]

The Scout Association is committed to this ethos and seeks to ensure, as far as is reasonably practicable, the prevention of all forms of bullying among members. To this end 22<sup>nd</sup> Stoke Scout Group has in place a Code of Conduct in each section which is appropriate to that age group, and a system of sanctions for breaches of this Code. These sanctions include the possibility of meetings with parents / guardians to improve behaviour, and either temporary or permanent suspension from the Group.

## 2 Safety of Members

### 2.1 Safety Policy

The Scouts aim to provide opportunities for young people and adult volunteers to develop and appreciate what risk is and how it is managed. This vital skill for life is developed by providing opportunities to learn and experience activities that are adventurous, but where risk is controlled and managed as far as is reasonably practicable.

The Scouts recognises that life is not risk-free and, in its turn, scouting is not risk-free. As the Scouts, we endeavour to manage these risks to wellbeing and safety to be as low as is reasonably practicable. Identifying and proportionately managing risk is a skill for life that we wish to kindle, develop and enhance in all our members.

To manage risks effectively, 22<sup>nd</sup> Stoke Scout Group follow this Safety Policy, which highlights the following key rules to promote safer working:

- All members must stop any activity if they have concerns over its safety and must be reminded of this frequently.
- All members must undertake risk assessments for the activities they undertake.
- Commissioners have the responsibility for making sure that the policy is followed – this can never be delegated.
- Trustee Boards take responsibility for making sure that these requirements are met for all scouting premises or locations operated by them.

### 2.2 Training and Permitted Activities

Every adult in Scouting takes part in regular mandatory training sessions for Safety, Safeguarding and First Aid. The majority of volunteers also complete detailed training on programme planning and delivery, working with young people and other adults, promoting positive behaviour, and many other topics.

In addition to the standard training required to be a trustee or programme team member, volunteers who run adventurous activities do so with permits and qualifications determined by following the Adventurous Activity Permit Scheme. This scheme has been designed to allow activities with lower levels of risk to be instructed by appropriate adults who are deemed competent by their line manager, while activities which are more adventurous such as higher-level hill walking, target sports, roped climbing activities, and other similar activities require a greater degree of expertise which is assessed by a qualified member of the County Team and a permit issued to those who are proven to be competent. Some activities will require a Nationally Recognised Qualification prior to assessment.

## 2.3 Outings and Camps

It is the policy of 22<sup>nd</sup> Stoke Scout Group that, in line with The Scout Association Policy, all trips or overnight stays away from the normal meeting place will have the following:

- A written information document, which may be a letter, information form, or email. This document will outline the event's timings, location, description and travel arrangements.
- A written risk assessment.
- In the case of overnight events, a Nights Away Permit holder who is trained and qualified in overnight activities.
- A method of communicating with all parties, called the InTouch system.
- A minimum of two adults, or the minimum ratio required in Scout rules for the Section involved.
- For adventurous activities, fully qualified instructors.
- We will never ask to take individual young people away on their own or without another adult being present. This includes transporting a young person alone in a car with one adult. All events will be arranged with the express knowledge and agreement of the Group Lead Volunteer.

## 3 Privacy and Data Protection Policy

The Scout Association takes the protection of privacy and personal data very seriously and all adults operating within the Scouts, whether at UK Headquarters or within local Scout units i.e., Scout Groups, Districts, Counties, Areas, Regions (Scotland) or Countries, must comply with data protection law which includes the EU General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR).

The Data Protection Policy followed by 22<sup>nd</sup> Stoke Scout Group, which provides key definitions, details of how it protects personal information and also guidance to staff, members and volunteers about how to deal with personal information they handle, can be found in the Data Protection Policy

## 4 What to do if you have concerns

If you are unhappy with anything relating to your child's time in Scouting, you should raise it with your child's Section Team Leader or the Group Lead Volunteer.

If you would rather speak to someone else outside of 22<sup>nd</sup> Stoke Scout Group, please contact the Support Centre on 0345 300 1818 or email [support@scouts.org.uk](mailto:support@scouts.org.uk), whereby your call can be directed to The Scout Association's dedicated Safeguarding Team.

The Scout Association also has a complaints procedure which we would advise you to follow if you are in any way unhappy. At 22<sup>nd</sup> Stoke Scout Group the designated Child Protection contact is:

Group Lead Volunteer: David Dowley  
Contact Telephone: 07879610375

## 5 References

Safeguarding Policy

[www.scouts.org.uk/about-us/policy/safeguarding-policy-and-procedures](http://www.scouts.org.uk/about-us/policy/safeguarding-policy-and-procedures)

Vetting Policy

[www.scouts.org.uk/por/2-key-policies/26-vetting-policy](http://www.scouts.org.uk/por/2-key-policies/26-vetting-policy)

Safety Policy

[www.scouts.org.uk/por/2-key-policies/25-safety-policy](http://www.scouts.org.uk/por/2-key-policies/25-safety-policy)

Data Protection Policy

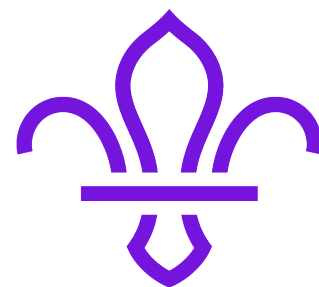
[www.scouts.org.uk/about-us/policy/data-protection-policy](http://www.scouts.org.uk/about-us/policy/data-protection-policy)

Adventurous Activity Permit Scheme

[www.scouts.org.uk/volunteers/running-your-section/programme-guidance/informationfor-volunteers/activity-permit-scheme/a-clear-process/the-adventurous-activity-permitscheme](http://www.scouts.org.uk/volunteers/running-your-section/programme-guidance/informationfor-volunteers/activity-permit-scheme/a-clear-process/the-adventurous-activity-permitscheme)

Making a Complaint

[www.scouts.org.uk/contact-us/raising-a-concern/making-a-complaint-about-scouting](http://www.scouts.org.uk/contact-us/raising-a-concern/making-a-complaint-about-scouting)



**Scouts**  
**22nd Stoke**

