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# CHILD PROTECTION STATEMENT

All children and young people have the right to live their lives to the fullest potential, to be protected, to have the opportunity to participate in and enjoy any activities that they are capable of and to be treated with dignity and respect.

Young people have the right to have fun and develop new skills by taking part in gliding and gliding related activities at Booker Gliding Club.

## CHILD PROTECTION STATEMENT

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Booker Gliding Club (BGC) is committed to ensuring that all children and young people are protected and kept safe from harm whilst engaged in gliding related activities. Booker Gliding Club will also safeguard the welfare of children and young people by protecting them from abuse.

Booker Gliding Club recognises that it has a duty of care towards young BGC members and will make arrangements to safeguard and promote the welfare of children and young people.

Booker Gliding Club operates from a busy and complex airfield and recognises that gliding can expose young people to unique risks associated with aviation. Care is taken to ensure that young people are educated to understand these risks and that the parents or guardians of any unaccompanied young people will understand these risks exist.

The policy affects every Booker Gliding Club member and staff member.

## DEFINITIONS AND LIMITATIONS

- The term children or young person is used to refer to anyone under the age of 18 years.
- The term parent is used as a generic term to represent anyone with legal parental responsibility.
- All children and young people irrespective of their age, class, religion, culture, disability, gender, ethnicity or sexual preference have the right to protection.
- Young people under 15 are not permitted on the airfield to take part in gliding activities unless accompanied, and supervised by a parent.
- There may be times when young people are not under the direct supervision of BGC members or staff, for instance it is legal for a young person aged 14 to fly a glider alone.

## THE AIMS OF THE POLICY

Booker Gliding Club accepts the moral and legal responsibility to implement procedures to provide a duty of care for children and young people, safeguard their wellbeing and protect them when they are engaged in gliding activities or when they come into contact with BGC members, instructors and staff.

## **THE CLUB AIMS TO DO THIS BY:**

- Raising awareness throughout the club of the statutory “duty of care” relating to children and young people and actively encourage good practice amongst all members, instructors and staff.
- Training and supporting members, instructors and staff who work closely with children and young people to adopt best practice to safeguard and protect children and young people from abuse, and themselves against false allegations.
- Ensuring that BGC members and staff who have regular contact with children and young people are subject to an appropriate level of criminal record screening.
- Respecting and promoting the rights, wishes and feelings of young people. Listening to young people, minimising dangers and working closely with other agencies.
- Creating a safe and healthy environment and avoiding situations where abuse or allegations of abuse may occur.
- Responding to any allegations appropriately and reporting to the relevant authorities where necessary.
- Ensuring that young people are adequately briefed on any activity that they may be involved in.
- Requiring BGC members and staff to adopt and abide by the BGC Child Protection Policy and Code of Conduct.

## **ACTION TO ACHIEVE THESE AIMS:**

- The general safety and wellbeing of children and young people will be promoted and a code of conduct developed so that good working practices are maintained.
- Procedures will be provided for BGC members and staff describing the actions they should take if they have concerns or encounter a case of alleged or suspected child abuse.
- Assessment processes will be developed to ensure that the BGC committee is aware of the extent to which BGC members have contact with children and young people and an assessment of risk to the safety of children and young people in specific activities or situations.
- Training will be arranged for members and staff on child protection procedures and good practice.
- All flying training for young people will follow recognised British Gliding Association methods for glider pilot training, and young people will not be placed under any undue pressure during their pilot training.
- All young people involved in gliding will be encouraged to provide feedback regarding the attitude of instructors and BGC members towards them during their time at the club and to highlight any areas for improvement or change that would benefit themselves or other young people.

Booker Gliding Club wants young people to have fun and develop new skills by taking part in gliding and gliding related activities at Booker Gliding Club.

Booker Gliding Club recognises the need to care for young people appropriately, and ensures BGC members and staff are aware of their responsibilities through the publication of the following documents:

- Booker Gliding Club Child Protection Statement and Policy
- Code of Conduct for all BGC members and staff
- Booker Gliding Club Child Protection Procedures

These documents have been created with reference to child protection guidelines published by the British Gliding Association and the NSPCC Child Protection in Sport Unit.

## **CODE OF CONDUCT**

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This Code of Conduct should be viewed in conjunction with the Booker Gliding Club Child Protection Policy.

**All Booker Gliding Club (BGC) members and staff** are expected to adhere to this Code of Conduct, which has been created both to ensure that gliding activities at Booker Gliding Club are safe and fun for young participants, and to ensure that all BGC members and staff are protected.

- Put any young person's welfare, safety and enjoyment first, before winning or achieving goals. Recognise the developmental needs and capacity of young people and avoid excessive training or competition and pushing them against their will.
- Give enthusiastic and constructive feedback rather than negative criticism.
- Always work in an open environment, avoid private or unobserved situations. Make sure as far as possible that you are never alone in a closed room with a young person. NOTE: It is recognised that unobserved situations are unavoidable during flying training in two-seater aircraft and parents of younger BGC members are made aware of this.
- Encourage young people to feel comfortable enough to point out attitudes and behaviour they do not like.
- Ensure that young people are, or have previously been, adequately briefed about any activities they are asked to perform. Where appropriate refer to the individual's training and experience record cards and ensure these are kept up to date.
- Be a good role model. Show a responsible attitude when smoking or consuming alcohol in the presence of young people. Never allow a young person to drink alcohol.
- Ensure that manual or physical support and assistance is provided when appropriate and that this is in the interests of the young person and takes place openly. Young people should always be consulted and their agreement gained.
- Ensure that a written record is kept of any injury that occurs to a young person along with the details of any treatment given.
- Provide access for young people to talk to our Child Protection Officer about concerns they might have.
- Recognise that caution is required in sensitive moments of counselling, such as when dealing with bullying, bereavement or abuse.
- Challenge sensitively any inappropriate behaviour from a young person towards you and, if necessary, record the details in writing and seek support from the BGC Child Protection Officer or a member of the BGC committee.
- Remember that when dealing with young people someone may misinterpret your actions, no matter how well intentioned.
- Ensure that any inappropriate or suspicious behaviour towards any young person by BGC members, staff or members of the public is reported to the BGC Child Protection Officer or to a member of the BGC committee.

**You should not:**

- Permit abusive youth activities such as initiation ceremonies, ridiculing or bullying.
- Assist a young person with any activity involving physical contact when they are capable of performing the activity safely themselves.
- Disregard, exaggerate or trivialise young person abuse issues.
- Have any inappropriate physical contact, make suggestive remarks or gestures.
- Display photographs of young BGC members without approval and never include their name or identity without parental permission.

**In addition you should avoid the following:**

- Spending excessive amounts of time alone with young people away from others.
- Giving lifts to young people unaccompanied.

**If you suspect a young person is being abused:**

- Immediately tell the BGC Child Protection Officer or deputy, or a member of the BGC Committee.
- Record the facts as you know them and give a copy to the BGC Child Protection Officer, or to a member of the BGC Committee.
- Ensure the young person has access to a suitable independent adult.
- Ensure that no gliding situation arises which could cause any further concern.