



## **ADVICE FOR PARENTS CONCERNING YOUNG PEOPLE AT BOOKER GLIDING CLUB**

Wycombe Air Park, Marlow, Bucks SL7 3DP  
t 01494 442501  
e [info@bookergliding.co.uk](mailto:info@bookergliding.co.uk)  
w [www.bookergliding.co.uk](http://www.bookergliding.co.uk)

### **INTRODUCTION**

---

Booker Gliding Club ("the Club") wants parents to be fully aware of the limited levels of supervision the Club can practically provide for their child, especially at times when the child is not involved in flying activities. Where this document refers to child or children it is applicable to people up to and including the age of 17 (legally, all under 18's are children).

Although we do not want to put unnecessary restrictions in the way of any young person keen to participate in gliding, we consider it important that parents clearly understand what they can, and cannot, expect the Club to do towards caring for their child whilst on the airfield and in our premises. To this end we ask you to consider the following and, if you understand and agree with it, to return one copy signed as indicated.

### **CHILDREN UNDER THE AGE OF FIFTEEN**

---

Children under the age of fifteen are only allowed on the airfield and premises if they are in the continual care and supervision of their parents or an adult nominated by the parents.

Children under 15 can be given a Trial Lesson. They must be heavy enough for the safe operation of the glider and they must be big enough to be strapped in safely and to see out. They would need to be close to 5 feet (1.5m) tall and weigh at least 98 lbs (45 kg). This often makes twelve years old a minimum age for a Trial Lesson. Our age limits for junior membership, cadets and courses vary depending on membership type and the facilities that The Club can offer.

### **CHILDREN AGED 15 TO 17**

---

The Club accepts flying members from the age of 14 upwards, however, we do require that children are over 15 before they can attend the airfield without parental supervision. In order to ensure the risks associated with being on our airfield have been understood by both parent and child we have a short induction program, and we require completion of an additional consent form for any unaccompanied members under 18.

### **WHAT PARENTS CAN EXPECT THE CLUB TO DO**

---

The Club sees flight safety as its highest priority. The Club will do all it can to ensure your child is safe whilst involved in flying activities both on the ground and in the air. This starts with a briefing that points out the immediate hazards and further briefings are given as an integral part of learning to fly a glider. Air and ground safety tuition continues well past the first solo stage.

Once the young person goes out to the launch point to fly, their flying and safe conduct on the ground is the concern of the instructors involved. The safety aspects of flying and ground operations are structured and are the responsibility of the Chief Flying Instructor. He or she devolves safety through all the instructors under him or her.

## **PARENTS NEED TO UNDERSTAND**

---

Any young person joining the Club is joining an adult members club and all members of any age come and go when they please with no formality. For young people this means that, unlike going to school where teachers take on some parental responsibility for part of the day, or a Scout camp where Leaders do the same thing 24 hours a day, coming to the Club is different. Apart from the start of a pre-booked course, there is no one here who checks a young person has arrived and who accepts a degree of responsibility for them.

## **WHAT THE CLUB CANNOT DO**

---

The Club does not attempt to provide supervision for young people other than that associated with our flying activities. When any young person is not flying they may return to the clubhouse, go home, or pursue other activities with friends, the club does not and cannot supervise this.

Sometimes young people want to stay at the club overnight either in tents or caravans that they provide for themselves. The Club operates in daylight only and has no staff on duty at night. Although the airfield has gates and fences, unauthorised public access cannot be prevented. Parents must satisfy themselves that any overnight arrangements their children make are sensible and safe.

Another area of concern is transport to and from the airfield. The airfield has public transport and although some young people who live within a few miles do cycle here the majority rely on their parents for travel. Parental transport is obviously ideal but not always possible. Your child may get to know a member here and be offered a lift, which may be acceptable to you or not. The important thing you need to know is if this happens it will not be an arrangement made with the agreement and consent of the Club, simply because the club will not know about it.

Young people are welcome to be members and fly at the Club but, because they represent a tiny proportion of the membership, it is difficult for the club to make special arrangements for all their individual needs.

We recommend that children are provided with a charged mobile phone that they can use to contact their parents. We also recommend that this phone has an up to date "In Case Of Emergency (ICE)" entry. Parents must ensure that any young member with an allergy or special medical needs always has a supply of any medicines that they may need. The club cannot provide an environment that protects members from their allergies. For example, our tea bar offers products containing nuts, and our club members are free to bring dogs into the clubhouse.

If a young person has any concerns about his or her treatment at the Club they should be advised to contact you immediately. A young person with a problem should also report it to our Child Protection Officer and/or Chief Flying Instructor. Where necessary, we will then follow the relevant club or British Gliding Association procedures.

If any parent has any concerns about the information in this note or related issues or has any questions about the points raised in here please contact our office.

As parent of .....I acknowledge receipt of the above information.

Signed ..... Date .....