

ROCESTER AND DISTRICT CAMERA CLUB

Child Protection Policy

Introduction

Rocester and District Camera Club (RDCC) is committed to policies which promote good practice and protect children from harm. A child, for these purposes, is defined as anyone who has not yet reached their 18th birthday. The Club is committed to making sure that children are protected and kept safe from harm while they are engaged in all formal or informal activities organised by club members. RDCC accepts and recognises the responsibilities to develop awareness of the issues that may cause children harm. Acceptance of the RDCC Child Protection Policy is part of the conditions of membership of the Club.

Children are welcomed as members of RDCC with the agreement of the child's parent or guardian. Children can attend meetings of the Club and other activities organised by club members accompanied by an adult approved by the child's parent or guardian, or may attend such activities unaccompanied with the agreement of the parent or guardian.

Aims of the Child Protection Policy

- To demonstrate the commitment of RDCC and its members to provide and maintain an environment that protects children from harm, as well as protecting the Club and its members from potential allegations.
- To ensure that members are familiar with the RDCC Child Protection Policy.
- To ensure members adopt child protection guidelines through a Code of Behaviour, detailed below.
- To take appropriate action in response to child protection issues that may involve club members.

Code of Behaviour on Child Protection

The Club recognises that it is not practical to provide definitive instructions that would apply to all situations at all times whereby club members come into contact with children and to guarantee protection of children and members. The standards of behaviour required of club members in order to fulfil their role in the application of a Child Protection Policy are shown below. This Code should assist in the protection of both children and members. Club members must implement the Child Protection Policy and procedures at all times.

1. General Behaviour

This section refers to activities within the club meeting premises or club activities taking place elsewhere, including outdoors and during transportation.

Members must **never**

- spend time alone with a child on his or her own. If members find themselves in this situation they must ensure they can be clearly observed by others.
- take a child to the toilet unless another adult is present or has been made aware.
- engage in rough physical games, including horseplay, with children.
- allow or engage in inappropriate touching of any kind. The main principles of touching are:-
 - Touch should always be in response to the child's needs.
 - Touch should always be appropriate to the age and stage of development of the child.
 - Touch should always be with a child's permission.
- do things of a personal nature for children that they can do for themselves or that their parent can do for them.
- physically restrain a child unless restraint is to prevent physical injury of the child; other children; visitors; other club members; or yourself. In all circumstances, physical restraint must be appropriate and reasonable otherwise the action can be defined as assault.
- use offensive or inappropriate words or make sexually suggestive comments to, or within earshot, of a child.
- display or show any images that may be deemed offensive.

2. Transportation

This section refers to activities requiring the transportation of club members.

- Members must not have children in their vehicle unless they are the parent or guardian or unless they have the permission of the parent or guardian. Where circumstances require the transportation of children, another adult must also travel in the vehicle.
- Members must ensure there is adequate insurance for the vehicle to cover transporting children in connection with the activities of the Club.
- In an emergency (e.g. for medical purposes), where it is required to transport a child on their own, it is essential that the parent or guardian is notified immediately.