



DEVON & SOMERSET GLIDING CLUB

CHILD PROTECTION POLICY

*Referenced from the BGA  
Child Protection Policy and Procedures*

# DSGC CHILD PROTECTION POLICY

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## BACKGROUND AND OVERVIEW.

The statutory inquiry into the death of Victoria Climbié highlighted the then lack of priority status given to safeguarding. The Government's responses to these findings included the *Every Child Matters* green paper and the 2004 Children Act. The body of legislation also includes..

- *Children Act 1989*
- *Children Act 2004*
- *Protection of Children Act 1999*
- *Human Rights Act 1998*
- *UN Convention on Rights of the Child*
- *Sexual Offences Act 2003*
- *The Safeguarding Vulnerable Groups Act 2006*
- *Working Together to Safeguard Children 2010* document by the Department for Children, Schools and Families
- *The Protection of Freedoms Act 2012*

While the legislation referred to is essentially aimed at settings where children are in the extended care of adults, either family or institutions, and therefore may be deemed to be at risk: anyone and everyone who works with or around children and vulnerable adults needs to be aware of the laws that aim to protect children from harm.

Social media is virtually unregulated. It is apparent that grooming and inappropriate relationships can easily take place via Chat Rooms, Facebook, Txt, other social media and emails. This cannot be regulated within a club setting and even parents find it hard to regulate their own children in this area. In a club setting it is possible that a child's peer group may stumble across suspicious Internet activity. If this is the case they need to be confident in reporting the issue.

The DSGC recognises that we have a duty of care towards young and vulnerable participants and can help to protect them from abuse. In order to achieve this all volunteers working with children, young people and vulnerable adults will have training and or relevant information and guidance made available to assist them in the recognition of abuse and fostering good working relationships with young people. They should also be aware of the referral pro-

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cess; sensible working practices; and to identify 'appointed persons' within the BGA and at club level, who staff can contact about child protection issues.

## VOCABULARY

A CHILD.

The law defines a child as anyone who has not yet achieved his or her 18th birthday.

For practical purposes DSGC regards a child who has not yet achieved their 16th birthday as requiring to be supervised by a parent or designated adult when on the DSGC site. (If the nominated adult is not a family member then we require written confirmation of the arrangement).

Between the ages of 16 and 18 (16yrs and 17yrs) a young person is still regarded by the law as a child and parents may allow their children to attend North Hill on trust; confident that their child is sufficiently mature and sensible to interact in that adult environment and find their own way home etc. If, in the view of the committee, this proves not to be the case then parents will be informed and for safeguarding purposes that child will revert to pre 16yrs status with the restrictions and supervisions that apply.

## VULNERABLE YOUNG ADULT

This relates less to age and more to emotional, social or physical issues. To a certain extent this is self-regulating in the DSGC setting as to engage in the sport of gliding requires a medical certificate or self declaration. In effect each situation will need to be taken on its merits. Society is becoming more aware of the autistic spectrum, which affects learning abilities and social behaviour in different ways. While unusual social behaviour may make demands on members within the remit of Child Protection, in extreme cases a trainee's mood swings or an inability to relate personal actions to outcomes may cause the CFI deem them unsafe to fly solo. This of course supersedes CP concerns. Physical disability can in some cases be accommodated on training aircraft.

## DISCLOSURE & BARRING SERVICE (DBS)

Set up in 2012 anyone involved in a REGULATED ACTIVITY must apply to be approved by the DBS. Any Body or Setting engaged in what is defined as a REGULATED ACTIVITY may apply to the DBS for information about any new employee or volunteer. They also have a duty to inform DBS if they have cause to remove a person from a Regulated Activity in their setting.

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## REGULATED ACTIVITY

Following a change in British Gliding Association guidance DSGC now recommends that its instructors hold a valid DBS. It also recommends that any club member who has frequent unsupervised contact with Junior members should hold a valid DBS. However, we recognise that not all DSGC instructors and probably most club members do not conform to the definition of a REGULATED ACTIVITY as they do not meet the criteria of FREQUENCY or INTENSITY as gliding instructors or club members. We believe that this applies to instructors that only instruct on average one day or part of a day a month. To meet the FREQUENCY or INTENSITY criteria we believe a club member would have to have weekly unsupervised contact with Junior members.

The Committee have therefore agreed that all instructors or club members who are likely to meet the FREQUENCY or INTENSITY definition MUST hold a valid DBS. In practice this means any instructors who teaches on week-long continuous courses, club expeditions or instructs more frequently than once a month, or any club member who has frequent, weekly unsupervised contact with junior members. The Club Committee via the Club Child Protection, Welfare Officer will be responsible for ensuring that all instructors and applicable members are aware of this situation and that where it is felt necessary apply for a DBS certificate. Applications will be made via the Child Protection, Welfare Officer through the Club's Portal on the Cornwall Council Disclosure Service. To remain valid DBS' will be expected to be renewed approximately every three years. The Child Protection, Welfare Officer will maintain a list of current DBS' held by instructors and club members.

## **BGA YOUNG PEOPLE IN GLIDING – Child protection Code of Practice or Blue Card**

This invaluable guide folds down to the size of a credit card and can be kept in the wallet or purse of each club member. A copy is also displayed on the Young Pilots notice board in the entrance hall of the Club. It is also available via the Clubs website. The card presents a Code of Behaviour with a list of Do and Do Not's. And what to do if you have any concerns; specifically, do not investigate but refer to the Club Child Protection, Welfare Officer.

We do not expect our members to be fully aware of Child Protection issues without help from the club. Accordingly we will from time to time distribute relevant details and guidance to our members especially where legislation is altered. Club members have proved themselves sensitive about Child Protection issues and confidential in bringing issues to the attention of the Child Protection Officer despite their rarity. It is not a taboo subject. We make available to club members the **BGA Blue Card** which succinctly outlines situations to avoid and makes

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the helpful observation that Child Protection issues are not always as you might expect. Our aim is to become wiser in our dealing with those club members defined as children while involving them as fully as possible in all aspects of the club so that they continue to grow in self confidence and maturity while not only feeling safe, but being safe. IN THIS REGARD IT IS OUR POLICY THAT...

- The welfare of young people and vulnerable young adults is a primary concern.
- All young people whatever their age, culture, disability, gender, language, racial origin, religious belief and/or sexual identity have the right to protection from abuse.
- Children aged below 16yrs 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 aged below 16 cannot stay at the club overnight unless formal supervision has been provided which is acceptable to parents and the Committee.
- Children aged 16 & 17yrs attend DSGC on trust, recognising that club members will show every care and courtesy toward them (and expect such in return). Parents of this age group (refer to definition of A Child in Vocabulary section) must be confident that their child is sufficiently capable and mature to interact in that environment and find their own way home etc...
- It is the responsibility of the child protection experts to determine whether or not abuse has taken place but it is everyone's responsibility to report any concern.
- All incidents of suspicious behaviour, poor practice and specific allegations will be taken seriously and responded to appropriately.

This policy is supported by the BGA Child Protection policy, January 2018 and set of procedures as set out in the BGA document *Child Protection Policy and Procedures* which is available from the club on request and can be downloaded from the BGA website. Should you have any queries relating to this policy, please contact any of the following:

The DSGC Child Protection, Welfare Officers are **James and Julie Flory**,  
tel: 07749 017281 or email [childprotection@dsgc.co.uk](mailto:childprotection@dsgc.co.uk)

The DSGC Deputy Welfare Officer is **Pete Harmer**, tel: 01884 860722

**This policy was reviewed at a meeting of DSGC Committee of Management:**

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Held in March 2023

Signed on behalf of the Committee of Management (Original signed)

**Chairman DSGC** \_\_\_\_\_