

Code of Conduct for Adults working with young people

As an adult working or volunteering with children and young people as part of an SCDA activity, you must at all times act responsibly and in the best interests of the young person. You need to be aware that you are in a position of trust and are required to adhere to the SCDA Code of Conduct.

Depending on the role you are taking on, you may be required to join the PVG Scheme. If you are already a member of the Scheme, SCDA may need to attach themselves to your scheme record.

For Child Protection purposes, a young person is considered a child up to the age of 18.

You should:

- treat all children and young people with respect
- provide a good example of acceptable behaviour
- plan activities which involve more than one person being present
- ensure that other adults are within sight or hearing wherever possible if you need to speak with a young person on a one-to-one basis.. If this is unavoidable you should make another adult aware of where you are and never be in a room with the door closed or locked
- respect everyone's right to personal privacy
- be available to listen to the concerns of young participants, and to refer them to other sources of help where appropriate
- encourage young participants to feel comfortable enough to point out attitudes and behaviour they do not like
- show understanding and compassion when dealing with sensitive issues and recognise that caution is required when discussing such issues
- be aware that even caring physical contact with a child or young person may be misinterpreted and is to be avoided

You should not:

- permit abusive behaviour such as bullying, taunting, racist behaviour from other adults or from any young person
- have inappropriate physical or verbal contact with children or young people
- connect with young people online using your personal account(s) or pursue friendships outside of the SCDA activity
- drink alcohol while in a childcare role, or offer alcohol to anyone under the age of 18
- jump to conclusions about others without checking facts
- allow yourself to be drawn into inappropriate attention-seeking behaviour such as crushes or tantrums
- show favouritism to any individual
- make suggestive remarks or actions, even in jest
- deliberately place yourself or others in a potentially compromising situation
- exaggerate or trivialise any concerns raised with you
- wherever possible you should record any disclosure of abuse in the words of the young person and make it clear that you will need to share this information if it is in their best interest always keeping them informed of what you intend to do
- believe that “it could never happen to me”

For further information please refer to the SCDA Safeguarding & Child Protection Policy.