



Wimborne Camera Club - Vulnerable Individuals Policy

This document has been prepared using the advice provided by the PAGB concerning Advice on Children, Young People, and Vulnerable Adults attending Club Meetings Issue 1 – 17th February 2015. The intention of this document is to provide a safe environment for young people and vulnerable adults.

What follows relates to all young persons under the age of 18, but this policy should also be used to include any vulnerable adult with necessary adaptations (for example, such adults might have carers, but are unlikely to be accompanied by either parents or guardians).

The Care Act 2014 identifies vulnerable adults as ‘an adult at risk.’ An adult at risk of abuse or neglect is defined as someone who has needs for care and support, who is experiencing, or at risk of, abuse or neglect and as a result of their care needs - is unable to protect themselves.

The club will allow participation and membership of the Club of young people aged between 16 and 18 years of age provided they are accompanied to club meetings by a parent, guardian, or nominated person, subject to acceptance by the Committee. The parent or guardian must put the name of the nominated person in writing to the Club Secretary. The parent or guardian, and the nominated person, are both required to sign that they accept the conditions of this policy.

Where there are specific vulnerabilities, the status of the individual will be discussed with the parent or guardian with two members of the committee. The outcome of that discussion will be agreed in writing, signed by all parties, and retained by the Club Secretary.

The parent, guardian, or nominated person is responsible for that individual before, during, and after the club event.

A young person should not be left with less than two club members if for any reason the parent, guardian, or nominated person is temporarily unavailable. Preferably the parent or guardian should nominate two other individuals for that period.

Should a young person arrive at the club without the requirements above being met then it should be brought to the attention of two committee members, preferably the Chairman and Secretary for appropriate action to be taken. Attempts shall be made to contact the parent or guardian for the individual to be collected as soon as possible. Until such time as he/she can be collected, three Club members shall be nominated to supervise the vulnerable individual. If no suitable arrangements can be made for their collection within a reasonable time, the Police shall be contacted.

The law does prescribe that the showing of indecent or suggestive images to those aged below 18 is illegal. It is therefore a requirement that the club checks with invited speakers that their presentation does not involve the presentation or taking of indecent images. The definition of indecent or suggestive is not clear so, for the purposes of this policy it is best to adopt a precautionary approach where anything involving nudes is regarded as potentially indecent.



Wimborne Camera Club - Vulnerable Individuals Policy

As images for internal competitions are seen by the Internal Competition Secretary prior to the competitions any image that causes concern as to suitability can be brought to the attention of the committee for suitable action to be taken.

In studio sessions, the permission of the parent or guardian must be sought before an under-18/vulnerable individual can be photographed.

Any vulnerable individual needs protection from sexual, emotional, and physical abuse, exploitation, and other actions and activities that may be considered harmful. It is incorrect to assume that the abuser will be a male. Any suspicion of abuse of a vulnerable individual must be reported to a committee member. The matter will be dealt with discretely, but confidentiality will be shared with at least two other committee members and external advice will be sought from the Local Authority Designated Officer (LADO), who will advise as to whether the police should be involved. The first and most important thing will be to arrange for the protection of the vulnerable individual with the cooperation of the parent or guardian (in the case of a young person) with immediate effect until the circumstances can be investigated. The PAGB's advice is to deal with the investigation with a small sub-committee and such a group, of three committee, will be called together as and when any such situation arises.

Personal email addresses for those aged 16-18 may be used if the parent or guardian has given consent, otherwise emails should be done through the parent or guardian.

Anyone under the age of 18 having accepted the Vulnerable Persons Policy will not be permitted to join club-specific WhatsApp, Social Media or Discussion Forums without the approval of the committee and the parent/guardian.

This policy will be reviewed on an annual basis, prior to the AGM, and then presented to the AGM.

It shall be a condition, in applying for membership of the club, that applicants indicate that they have read the policy and accept it. It will be made explicit that members, paying their annual subscription to renew their membership, thereby indicate that they have read this policy and accept it.