



Bearsden Chess Club



Code of Practice for Working with Young People

Bearsden Chess Club recognises that children and young people are able to play chess through the voluntary efforts of members who provide opportunities for them to do so. These volunteers have a special responsibility to the children they work with. This document sets out a code of best practice.

Good conduct not only prevents incidents and allegations, but also helps to highlight any conduct (by other people) that is unsafe or unprofessional. Those volunteering to work with children at Bearsden Chess Club should:-

1. Be professional and maintain the highest standards of personal behaviour at all times
2. Recognise the trust placed in adults by children, and recognise the power held over children by adults. Treat this trust and this power with the greatest care.
3. Aim to work in an open and accountable manner at all times. Work in view of others wherever possible, be wary of working alone and unobserved, and be willing to accept questions or criticism regarding good practice. At least two adults should be present at all times when the junior sessions are running, at least one of whom should have been PVG checked by Chess Scotland on behalf of the club.
4. Expect others to work in an open and accountable manner. Question and criticise the practice of others if necessary.
5. Be mindful of the need to provide safe environments for all children, regardless of age, gender, ability, race, religion, ethnicity, or social status. Remember that some children are particularly vulnerable because of their identity and will find it hard to ask for help or to voice concerns.
6. Use appropriate language. Don't swear, and never make sexual or suggestive comments to a child. If a child makes comments like these, be prepared to enforce these boundaries in your response.
7. Never appear to favour one child or show interest in one child more than another.
8. Never discriminate against a child because of their age, gender, disability, culture, language, racial origin, religious belief or sexual identity.
9. Be vigilant and aware of how actions can be misinterpreted by children. Remember:
 - a. Actions made with good intentions can seem intrusive or intimidating to some children.
 - b. Some children may be attracted to the adults working with them.
 - c. Adults should be aware of the impact of their actions, and should sensitively address any misunderstanding.

President: Rob Colston
Treasurer: Ian English, 18 Golf Drive, Old Drumchapel, G15 6TA
Secretary: Mel Burt, 50 Buchanan Drive, Bearsden, G61 2EP

Vice President: TBA
Tel. 0141 569 3361

If a concern about a young person's welfare comes to your attention:-

10. Take seriously any suspicion or allegation of abuse, or any disclosure of concern made by them.
11. Record information, including relevant details. Be sure to record opinions or feelings as such; do not record them as facts. Do not question or interview the people involved in the incident of concern.
12. Do not promise confidentiality. Be honest and tell the child that you may need to pass on the concern.
13. Report any concerns within the area of Child Protection (physical, emotional or sexual abuse, neglect or bullying), in confidence and without delay, to the Club Secretary, and if there is an immediate risk, contact the Police or the local social services.
14. Never discuss an allegation or suspicion with another person, (other than the Police or social services), before receiving advice from the club.

Remember that it is the responsibility of all adults to safeguard children in chess. By recognising, following and discussing the principles behind this code, you are helping to rule out bad practice.

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