

Farnham & District Model Railway Club (F&DMRC)

Safeguarding Policy

The Club believes that it is unacceptable for its members, especially children and the vulnerable, to experience abuse of any kind and recognises the need to establish a policy for its members and others who use the Club's premises so that both the risk of abuse and any unwarranted allegations of abuse, are minimised.

The Club recognises that:

- the welfare of the child/young person and vulnerable person is paramount;
- all children and vulnerable adults, regardless of age, disability, gender, racial heritage, religious belief, sexual orientation or identity, have the right to equal protection from all types of harm or abuse;
- working in partnership with vulnerable adults, children, young people, their parents, carers and other agencies is essential in promoting the welfare of the young and of vulnerable people.

The purpose of the Policy:

- To provide protection for children, young people and vulnerable adults who visit the Club including the children of adult members.
- To provide members with guidance on procedures they should adopt in the event that they suspect a child, young person or vulnerable adult may be experiencing, or be at risk of, harm.

The Club will seek to safeguard children, young people and vulnerable adults by:

- valuing them, listening to and respecting them
- adopting Safeguarding guidelines through procedures and the code of conduct below.
- sharing information about Safeguarding and good practice with members.

Junior membership is available to children aged between 12 and 18. Children between the ages of 12 and 14 must at all times be accompanied by a nominated parent, guardian or close relative (who has previously been introduced to the Club's Executive Officers) when visiting or attending the Club. In addition, it is to be ensured that the child/young person is never left alone with another person, at any time in the Club, unless that person is their parent, carer or close relative.

Once a Junior Member achieves their 14th birthday, and if it is agreed by both the Club's Executive Officers and the parents/guardians of the Junior Member, they may attend meetings and other Club events unaccompanied, on receipt of a signed permission form which is kept on record. However, both junior and adult members should take all reasonable steps to ensure that a junior member is not alone with a sole adult at any time. The Club will not accept any responsibility for a Junior Member prior to, or after their departure from the Club.

Any incident involving suspicions or evidence of abuse or potential abuse of a child, young person or vulnerable adult, or failure to comply with this policy, should be reported in the first instance to a member of the Club's Executive Committee. The Secretary (or another Executive Officer) will ensure that notes of discussions are taken and any evidence retained, and liaise with the appropriate parties and authorities.

We are also committed to reviewing our policy and good practice annually.

Chairman's Signature: _____

Adopted on: _____