

Summer 2024 Newsletter

Protecting children in a club, sport or other activity



It's important to look for a club, sport or activity that takes the safety and wellbeing of your child seriously. Always check whether the club or organisation is accredited or otherwise affiliated to a body (e.g. a sports governing body or national voluntary sector or [faith organisation](#)) as this should mean they have the right safeguarding policies and procedures in place.

Even if they're accredited, there are some key things to look for to ensure they take children's safety seriously:

- A [welfare or child protection officer](#) you can contact about safeguarding or with any concerns.
- Clear procedures and processes for raising **complaints and concerns**.
- Written standards of good practice** – like a [code of conduct or code of behaviour](#). This should outline the boundaries that staff and volunteers should respect when working with children and young people and should address things like discrimination and bullying and social media behaviour.
- Effective **consent and emergency processes**. You should receive a form asking for your consent to the activity, for your contact details, and any relevant medical information about your child from the club or organisation.
- A **safe recruitment process** for staff and volunteers, including [vetting](#). This means they have appropriate references, criminal records checks and the right technical qualifications for the activity.
- Staff and volunteers are **trained in safeguarding** (child protection). NSPCC Learning provides [information and online courses](#) if you work with children.
- Children and young people are suitably supervised (based on their age, ability, the activity and venue) by adults who are trained to care for them.
- The activity takes place in a **safe environment** – and there are separate changing areas for children and adults.

Worried about a Child?

If you're worried about a child or young person, you can contact the NSPCC Helpline for support and advice for free - call us on [0808 800 5000](tel:0808 800 5000) or [contact us online](#).

Children can contact [Childline](#) on 0800 111 or online any time to get support themselves.

Last week, OFCOM released its largest report to date about the online activity of our children, The key points have been gathered together, in the document below, which I hope you will take the time to read.

There are fantastic resources online to help parents with understanding social media and how the various platforms work—ways to have conversations with your children about their online activity and tips and hints for how you can make sure you know what they are doing online.

