

Safeguarding Children & Young People Policy

Last Review & Revision: March 2026



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A. Introduction to Sea Change Sailing Trust's (SCST) Safeguarding Children & Young People Policy

Outdoor activity makes a really positive contribution to the lives of children and young people and encourages them to reach their full potential physically, emotionally, socially, and personally. Sea Change Sailing Trust staff, instructors and volunteers have important responsibilities to seek to promote sailing and adventurous activities in a safe environment.

The Child Safeguarding policy of the SCST is set out under the following headings:

1. Safeguarding Children policy.
2. Guidance for adults in their conduct with children.
3. Guidance about Photography and filming.

These policies will be reviewed annually by the Trustees of the charity.



B. Sea Change Sailing Trust (SCST) Safeguarding Children & Young People Policy

1. General

- 1.1. Sea Change Sailing Trust (SCST) recognises that safeguarding the welfare of children and young people is important. SCST has a duty of care to children when they are participating in any activities organised by the Charity and will take reasonable steps to provide an appropriately safe environment for those activities.
- 1.2. SCST will seek to take such steps as it reasonably can to safeguard children from physical, sexual, and emotional harm or abuse whilst participating in activities organised by the Charity.
- 1.3. SCST will take reasonable steps to ensure that all children taking part in activities organised by it do so in a reasonably safe environment and will ensure risks are adequately assessed.
- 1.4. SCST actively seeks to:
 - Accept its responsibilities in caring for children and young people and those who work with them.
 - Be committed to good practice in work with children and young people.
 - Recognise that safeguarding children and young people is the responsibility of everyone, not just those who work with children and young people.
 - Be prepared to review its ways of work to incorporate current recognised good practice.
- 1.5. SCST will:
 - Treat all children with respect and celebrate their achievements.
 - Seek to exercise all due care in the recruitment and selection of all adults, whether paid or voluntary, who will be involved in the organisation or running of its activities.
 - Respond to all concerns and allegations appropriately.
 - Seek so far as reasonably practicable to ensure that all adults, whether paid or voluntary, who will be involved in the organisation of its activities are aware of the guidance contained in the document “Guidance for adults working with children and young people.”
- 1.6. SCST will have regard to the desirability of adults who are involved with the organisation. Where appropriate all staff and volunteers must have a current DBS records clearance.



- 1.7. SCST welcomes all participants. It relies upon the compliance of staff, group leaders and volunteers of SCST complying with the guidance attached to this policy. Those who deliberately take unfair advantage of their position of trust or behave in an inappropriate manner either on or off the water, can expect to be brought to account.
- 1.8. Excessive foul or abusive language, intimidation, aggressive behaviour, or lack of respect for others or their property will not be tolerated.
- 1.9. Individuals who have relevant concerns about the welfare of any child are encouraged to discuss those concerns with SCST's named Child Safeguarding Officer.
- 1.10. It is intended that this policy will be reviewed at least annually or when required to comply with changes in legislation.

2. **Child Safeguarding Officers**

- 2.1. SCST will appoint a named Child Safeguarding Officer.
- 2.2. SCST will publicise that person's name and contact details.
- 2.3. The SCST's Child Safeguarding Officer will be responsible for:
 - Monitoring and recording concerns.
 - Liaison with other agencies as appropriate.
- 2.4. The SCST's Child Safeguarding Officer is NOT responsible for passing on or reporting allegations or concerns which are made or expressed to them to the relevant Children's Services Department or to any other person or authority. That responsibility is primarily that of the person making the allegation or expressing the concern.
- 2.5. SCST will seek:
 - To have a named Child Safeguarding Officer present or contactable at all reasonable times.
 - To identify the Child Safeguarding Officer by posting their name in a publicly accessible place within the organisation.
 - To facilitate communication with the Child Safeguarding Officers by publishing their mobile telephone numbers or otherwise.

3. **Confidentiality**

- 3.1. In the event that allegations or concerns of abuse are made to a member of Staff or volunteer of SCST, that staff member or volunteer may, but, in a case where the allegations or concerns were made or expressed to him in confidence, only so far as he is entitled or obliged by law to do so, pass on the allegations or concerns to a Child Safeguarding Officer.



- 3.2. In the event that allegations or concerns of abuse are made, expressed, or passed on to a Child Safeguarding Officer, that officer may, where appropriate, pass on the allegations or concerns to the relevant Children's Services Department or to such other person or authority as is appropriate, but (subject to any relevant legal obligations) shall not be under a responsibility to do so. That responsibility is primarily that of the person making the allegation or expressing the concern.
- 3.3. In the event that a complaint is made against a member of staff of SCST, the Child Safeguarding Officer shall immediately inform the CEO. Together they will conduct a preliminary investigation to ascertain the facts of the complaint or allegation. Once satisfied that there are sufficient concerns to warrant further enquiry the Child Safeguarding Officer will contact the Local Authority Designated Officer (LADO) at Essex County Council.
- 3.4. In consultation with the LADO a decision on the investigatory process will be planned and undertaken.

4. Risk Assessment

- 4.1. SCST will maintain systems to assess the risks of the various activities which it organises and will monitor and amend those systems as appropriate.

5. Photography and Filming

- 5.1. SCST is aware of the dangers of images of children being misused and published on the internet.
- 5.2. SCST will seek to deter the creation of inappropriate photographs and images of its activities. 5.2 SCST will seek so far as reasonably practicable to ensure that all adults, whether paid or voluntary, who will be involved in the organisation of its activities are aware of the guidance contained in the document "Guidance on Photography and Filming."

Sea Change Sailing Trust

March 2026

