



The Swim England Child and Safeguarding Policy

Key Principles

Safeguarding children at Crawley Swimming Club is an integral part of our activities. It seeks to create a culture that provides a safe and happy environment in which children can learn to swim and develop to a level appropriate for their ability. The aquatic sports should be enjoyable and fun, including the competitive aspect at whatever level undertaken, giving each individual a sense of achievement and satisfaction from taking part.

Swim England is committed to ensuring that all children who participate in our activities are able to take part in an enjoyable and safe environment and be safeguarded from harm.

The Children Acts 1989 and 2004, as amended by the Children and Social Work Act 2017, and the Government document 'Working Together to Safeguard Children 2023' are clear that safeguarding children is the responsibility of all, including those who are employed or volunteer with children in whatever capacity.

It is each sports organisations' responsibility:

- through safe recruitment practice, to ensure that those who are deemed to be unsuitable to work with children are not allowed to do so. The Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) is an important and well known, but not sole, part of safe recruitment; and
- to report and safeguarding concerns to Swim England.

Swim England acknowledges, and requires Organisations to acknowledge, that they have a duty of care to safeguard children from harm. Organisations and their Members must follow the policies and procedures in Wavepower to safeguard children from harm and act appropriately if a child is identified as being at risk of harm.

The key principles of 'Working Together to Safeguard Children 2023' are that:

- safeguarding is everyone's responsibility and
- a child-centred approach is essential.

Safeguarding children is everyone's responsibility

Everyone who works with children has a responsibility for keeping them safe; this includes teachers, coaches and all who are employed or volunteer to work with children in the sport sector.

No single person can have a full picture of a child's needs and circumstances and, if children and families are to receive the right help at the right time, everyone who comes into contact with them has a role to play in identifying concerns, sharing information and taking prompt action.

Effective safeguarding requires clear local arrangements for collaboration between practitioners and agencies.

A child-centred approach

Effective safeguarding systems are child-centred. Failings in safeguarding systems are too often the result of losing sight of the needs and views of the children within them, or placing the interests of adults ahead of the needs of children.

In 'Working Together to Safeguard Children 2023', it states that children are clear about what they want from an effective safeguarding system:

- **Vigilance:** to have adults notice when things are troubling them.
- **Understanding and action:** to understand what is happening; to be heard and understood; and to have that understanding acted upon.
- **Stability:** to be able to develop an ongoing stable relationship of trust with those helping them.
- **Respect:** to be treated with the expectation that they are competent rather than not.
- **Information and engagement:** to be informed about and involved in procedures, decisions, concerns and plans.
- **Explanation:** to be informed of the outcome of assessments, decisions and reasons when their views have not met with a positive response.
- **Support:** to be provided with support in their own right as well as a member of their family.

- **Advocacy:** to be provided with advocacy to assist them in putting forward their views.
- **Protection:** to be protected against all forms of abuse and discrimination and the right to special protection and help if a refugee.

Duty of care

The Children Act 2004 places duties on a range of organisations and individuals to ensure their function and any services they contract out to others are discharged having regard to the need to safeguard and promote the welfare of children.

Organisations have a duty of care to their Members. Paid and volunteer staff have a duty to be aware of their responsibilities for safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children, how they should respond to child protection concerns and make a referral to the local authority Children's Social Care, Police, Local Authority Designated Officer (LADO) or other agencies if necessary.

Swim England is the national governing body for swimming, para-swimming, diving, high diving, artistic swimming, water polo and open water swimming, and as such receives funding from Sport England. As a funded NGB we meet the standards for safeguarding and protecting children in sport.

Each Organisation has a duty of care towards its Members and must adopt **Wavepower** as a condition of its affiliation. All Swim England Members must comply with the Swim England Handbook and Wavepower.

[Link to Wavepower](#)

To meet its safeguarding duty of care Swim England Organisations must:

- Follow the policies and procedures in Wavepower in full and use it as required.
- Promote and raise awareness of Wavepower to all of their Members.
- Ensure all of their Members are aware of their responsibilities and the procedures to be followed in the event of any concerns about a child or adult's safety or welfare.
- Promote a culture of listening to children and adults at risk.

Anyone involved in our sports can contact the Swim England Safeguarding and Welfare Team, or their County or Regional Welfare Officer for advice or guidance on Safeguarding concerns.

If these teams or contacts are unavailable for any reason, or failure to act immediately may place a child or adults at risk of harm, then immediate contact should be made with Police, Children's Social Care, Multi Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH), NSPCC Child Protection Helpline, Adult Social Care, or other agencies as appropriate.

CSC Safeguarding Statement

The health, safety and well-being of every swimmer is our main concern; our aim is that swimmers will enjoy their time with us. Safeguarding our swimmers is everybody's responsibility and we want to work in partnership with you to help all swimmers to achieve their full potential.

To promote a safe environment for swimmers, we follow guidelines set down by Swim England. It includes checks on Coaches', Team Managers' and other volunteers' suitability including Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) and reference checks.

Further information can be found here:

<https://www.swimming.org/swimengland/wavepower-child-safeguarding-for-clubs/>

We have a team of designated Welfare Officers, who are responsible for all safeguarding matters within the Club. If you have any concerns or issues relating to safeguarding you can contact the welfare team below:

welfare@crawleysc.co.uk

All contact will be treated in the strictest confidence.

Swimmers

If you are worried or unhappy about something you can tell the welfare officers or an adult you trust at the club and they will help you. If that is not possible, there are others who can help you by calling:-

Swimline: 0808 100 4001

Child Line: 0800 1111

NSPCC Helpline: 0808 800 5000

Swim England: safeguarding@swimming.org