



MID LANCs
BMX CLUB



Child Protection Policy

Mid Lancs BMX fully recognise its responsibility for child protection.

Our policy applies to Committee, Instructors and Volunteers undertaking duties for the Club.

There are five main elements to our policy:

- Ensuring we practice safe recruitment in checking the suitability of Committee/Instructors and Volunteers who interact with children.
- Raising awareness of child protection issues and equipping children with the skills needed to keep them safe.
- Developing and then implementing procedures for identifying and reporting cases, or suspected cases of abuse.
- Supporting participants who have been abused in accordance with his/her agreed Child Protection Plan.
- Establishing a safe environment in which children can learn and develop.

We recognise that because of regular contact with children, Instructors are well placed to observe the outward signs of abuse. Mid Lancs BMX will therefore:

- Establish and maintain an environment where children feel secure, are encouraged to talk, and are listened to.
- Ensure children know that there are adults at the Club whom they can approach if they are worried.

- Include opportunities in the **Junior Leadership** curriculum for children to develop the skills they need to recognise and stay safe from abuse.

We will follow the procedure set out by Sport England and the Local Safeguarding Children Board and take account of guidance issued by the Department for education and Skills to:

- Ensure we have a designated senior person for child protection who has received appropriate training and support for this role.
- Ensure every member of the Club (including Instructors covering classes and Volunteers) and Committee knows the name of the designated senior person responsible for child protection and their role.
- Ensure all Committee, Instructors and Volunteers understand their responsibilities in being alert to the signs of abuse and responsibility for referring any concerns to the designated senior person responsible for child protection.
- Ensure that parents have an understanding of the responsibility placed on the Club for child protection by setting out its obligations in the Club documentation.
- Notify Social Services if there is an unexplained absence of more than two sessions of a student who is on the child protection register.
- Develop effective links with relevant agencies and co-operate as required, with their enquiries regarding child protection matters, including attendance at case conferences.
- Keep written records of concerns about children, even where there is no need to refer the matter immediately.
- Ensure all records are kept securely, separate from the main Mid Lancs BMX members file and in locked locations.

- Develop and then follow procedures where an allegation is made against a member of Committee, Instructor or Volunteer.
- Ensure safe recruitment practices are always followed.

We recognise that children who are abused or witness violence may find it difficult to develop a sense of self-worth. They may feel helplessness, humiliation and some sense of blame. Our sessions may be the only stable, secure and predictable element in the lives of children at risk. When attending sessions, their behaviour may be challenging and defiant or they may be withdrawn. Mid Lancs BMX will endeavour to support the pupil through:

- The content of the sessions
- Mid Lancs BMX's ethos, which promotes a positive and secure environment and gives riders an identity and a sense of being valued.
- Mid Lancs BMX's behaviour policy, which is aimed at supporting vulnerable members at our sessions. Mid Lancs BMX will ensure that riders know that some behaviour is unacceptable, but they are valued and not to be blamed for any abuse which has occurred.
- Liaison with other agencies that support riders, such as their school, social services, Child Adult Mental Health Service, education welfare service and the educational psychology service.
- Ensuring that, where a student on the child protection policy register leaves, we will liaise with their school immediately and that the child's social worker is informed.

Mid Lancs BMX adhere to the guidelines set out by Club Mark

Designated Senior Person

Senior Coach

Reviewed: 21st September 2018. Next review date 21st September 2019