

Grimsby and Cleethorpes Model Engineering Society Child and Young Members' Policy

Policy

- It is the policy of the Society that the Society's premises and activities shall present a suitable environment where children may participate, either as members of the Society or as members of the Public.
- The Society is not classed as "child care organisation" as defined under the Child Protection Act 1999 and therefore has no legal obligation under that Act.
- It is policy that the Society shall take the Act into consideration on a voluntary basis and that extent is described in this document.

Rules

These rules apply to any member of the Society under the age of 18 years and are not specifically restricted to any one class of membership of the Society. The term Child Member embraces Junior Members, Family Child Associate Members, and Child Day Visitor Associate Members.

Children who are not Members are expressly excluded from participating in Society activities other than as members of the public.

1. It is the child's responsibility to obtain written parental authority for the activities to be performed. A copy of the parental declaration (as found on the Junior Member Application Form) signed and dated by a parent or guardian and annotated by the parent or guardian with any specific constraints shall be the form of that authority. The signature of the parent shall confirm that the parent is aware of and accepts all the Rules of the Society; takes responsibility for the child's conduct; and has verified that the child fully understands these rules and the need to obey them at all times; and can be relied upon to obey them. It is part of the application process for Junior Members that this authority is validated. Family Child Associate Members are deemed to have obtained this authority under the membership of the parent or guardian. Unless in the presence of a parent, guardian or minder, the existence of parental authority for the participation of minors is required by law. The Society requires this authority to be recorded formally.

2. The child's valid and current membership card and log book shall be carried at all times when on site. Sight of this and confirmation that there is no relevant exclusion marked therein covering the proposed activity shall be sufficient assurance for the supervisor.

3. The Society Secretary will maintain a register of these approvals as part of the membership management process of the Society.

4. A child under the age of 14 will only be accepted for Junior Membership of the society if
a:- their parent or guardian is also a full member.
b:- the child is sponsored by a full member who will take on the role of guardian until the child reaches the age of 14.

A Junior Member will only be granted a probationary membership for the first twelve months and membership may be withdrawn at anytime during this probationary period.

(N.B. as stated in the society constitution any Family Child Associate Members who own and run their own models at the club site are required to become Junior Members).

- 5.** A child must be supervised by a senior member competent to perform the task:
- Under 14 The parent, guardian, or child minder (known as Guardian hereafter) and a supervisor if also required, shall remain with the child at all times. The Guardian shall assess the safety considerations for the actions and take full responsibility.
 - 14 to Under 16 A supervisor is required on-site at all times. The supervisor shall determine the need for direct continuous supervision; this shall be at the discretion of the supervisor taking into account the child's experience and perceived ability to perform work safely for the type of equipment involved.
 - 16 to under 18 A supervisor is required as for 14 to Under 16 except where the person in charge of the equipment grants a Junior Member the authority to use the equipment under the terms of senior members. This rule applies particularly to the driving of locomotives.
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- 6.** The child must obtain the agreement of the supervisor for each activity undertaken on each day that any activity is to be performed. If no competent person is willing to act as supervisor, for whatever reason, then the child must not perform any task requiring supervision. This regulation includes activities that are child-initiated and based around their own property or possessions.
- 7.** The child must stop work immediately / not start work whenever:
- The supervisor so directs.
 - A supervisor who is required to be present is absent or leaves or ceases to be able to supervise the task.
 - A new phase of work is to be undertaken that requires different instruction.
- 8.** A Guardian shall be present at all times the child is participating in Society activities unless the terms of the following relaxation are agreed. The Guardian must assess the adequacy of current and past advice given and experience gained by the child and the child's ability to participate in Society activities. No other person knows the complete picture and so no other party can be relied upon in this matter. The Guardian shall provide the Secretary of the Society in writing:
- notice of consent for the child to participate unaccompanied,
 - a list defining any activity restrictions to be applied,
 - an assurance that the child is able to and is responsible to decline any activity for which the child is not competent,
 - that any lapse by the child shall be treated as a lapse by the Guardian and any such notice shall apply until the child's 18th birthday or until rescinded or revised.
- 9.** Each Junior Member will be issued with a log book in which the activities for which they have received instruction will be recorded. The record will indicate the date, type of activity and the signature of the supervisor performing the instruction. Further records should indicate if the Junior Member has been assessed as competent to perform the activity and finally if the Junior Member is competent to perform the activity unsupervised.
- 10.** Members who act as supervisors are under no obligation to do so and may decline. If a member agrees to act as supervisor on a particular occasion, they must sign the site register indicating the name of the child whom they are supervising. At all times the Guardian is responsible for the child's actions; not the supervisor.
- 11.** All the rules of the Society apply to child members including specifically all rules regarding Workshop and premises including the kitchen.
- 12.** The Society shall not adopt the role of child supervisor, minder or carer as defined under the child Protection Act 1999. The parent or guardian must make all arrangements for the

proper care of the child. Any person who agrees to act as a child minder or carer does so in a personal capacity and not on behalf of the Society. Agreement to act as an engineering/safety tutor or supervisor shall not be construed as agreement to act as child supervisor minder or carer under the act.

13. Children must wear clothing appropriate to the task in which they are involved. The supervisor's judgement is final in determining what this means on each occasion.