

ADVICE FOR PARENTS CONCERNING YOUNG PEOPLE AT ESSEX AND SUFFOLK GLIDING CLUB

Introduction

The Essex and Suffolk Gliding Club ("the Club") wants parents to be fully aware of the limited levels of supervision the Club can practically provide for their child, especially at times when the child is not involved in flying activities.

Although we do not want to put unnecessary restrictions in the way of any young person keen to participate in gliding, we consider it important that parents clearly understand what they can, and cannot, expect the Club to do towards caring for their child whilst on the airfield and in our premises. To this end we ask you to consider the following and, if you understand and agree with it, to return one copy signed as indicated.

Children under the age of sixteen

Children under the age of sixteen are only allowed on the airfield and premises if they are in the care and supervision of a parent/guardian or an adult nominated by the parent/guardian when it is deemed necessary.

The designated adult must be on site throughout the day and will be expected to take an active role in this supervision. Parents/guardians are welcome to operate a rota whereby one designated adult is responsible for supervision of a number of children. In this event all the children under their care must sign in and out with the adult when arriving and leaving the club. The child must leave a contact name and number of a person who can be contacted in case of emergency on that day and must inform the adult of any medical issue that they need to be aware of (nut allergy, type 1 diabetic, asthmatic etc.) The designated adult for that day should be noted on the club notice board, so if any member has a concern about a child's behaviour they can inform the designated adult who can deal with the issue. Other parents also know who to check in with and thank at the end of the day. The designated adult should not leave until all children under their care have been collected.

All children must have read and signed a copy of the code of conduct.

Young people who are sixteen and older

The Club accepts that young people in this age group will often not have parental supervision whilst here. Young people under the age of 18 must have written permission from a parent/guardian to fly.

All young people under the age of 18 must read and sign a copy of the code of conduct.

What parents can expect the Club to do

The Club sees flight safety as its highest priority. The Club will do all it can to ensure your child is safe whilst involved in flying activities both on the ground and in the air. This starts when a junior applies to join the club. The Junior Liaison Officer or Membership Secretary will provide a briefing that sets out the roles and responsibilities of both the junior and parent as well as the club. He will also point out the immediate hazards. Further briefings are given as an integral part of learning to fly a glider. Air and ground safety tuition continues well past the first solo stage. Once the young person goes out to the glider to fly, their flying and safe conduct is the concern of the instructors involved. The safety aspects of flying are structured and are the responsibility of the Chief Flying Instructor. He or she devolves safety through all the instructors under him or her. The Club does not have the facility to provide direct supervision of children (under 16 year olds) when the child is not flying or being given specific ground handling training.

Supervision at all other times is the responsibility of the parent / guardian, or the responsible adult nominated by them.

Parents need to understand

Any young person joining the Club is joining a multi-age club, not a youth club, and all members of any age come and go when they please with no formality. For young people this means that, unlike going to school where teachers take on some parental responsibility for part of the day, or a Scout camp where Leaders do the same thing 24 hours a day, coming to the Club is different. There is no one here who checks a young person has arrived and who accepts a degree of responsibility for them.

All of our weekend instructors are volunteers and give their time to instruct for one day in every 3 or 4 weeks. Pupils therefore train with a number of different instructors rather than the same instructor regularly. As a result, gliding instruction is not considered to be regulated activity and so the club does not carry out DBS checks for its instructors. This decision is under constant review and should the definition of regulated activity change the Club would then revisit its position

What the Club cannot do

The Club does not attempt to provide supervision for young people other than directly associated with our flying activities.

Young people are not allowed to stay overnight at the Club unless a parent/guardian, or a person nominated by the parent/guardian, is present

Another area of concern is transport to and from the airfield. The airfield has virtually no public transport and although some young people who live within a few miles do cycle here the majority rely on their parents for travel. Parental transport is obviously ideal but not always possible. Your child may get to know a member here and be offered a lift, which may be acceptable to you or not. The important thing you need to know is if this happens it will not be an arrangement made with the agreement and consent of the Club, simply because the Club will not know about it.

If a young person has any concerns about his or her treatment at the Club they should be advised to contact you immediately, or if there is a rota in place the designated adult who will then contact you directly. There is a phone available 24 hours a day in the clubhouse. A young person with a problem should also report it to the Duty Instructor, the Junior Liaison Officer or a committee member

If any parent has any concerns about the information in this note or related issues or has any questions about the points raised in here please contact the Junior Liaison Officer.

As parent/guardian of I acknowledge receipt of the above information.

Signed Date.....