

**THE BOYS'
BRIGADE**

>the adventure begins here



A CODE OF GOOD PRACTICE

**FOR ADULTS WORKING IN
THE BOYS' BRIGADE**

Please keep with you when working
with children & young people

YOU MUST

- ✓ treat everyone with respect
- ✓ provide an example you wish others to follow
- ✓ plan activities to ensure that there's always more than one leader present
- ✓ respect a young person's right to personal privacy
- ✓ have separate sleeping accommodation for leaders and young people
- ✓ encourage young people and adults to feel comfortable and caring enough to point out attitudes or behaviour they do not like
- ✓ create an environment where young people feel comfortable to talk to others about any concerns they may have
- ✓ avoid physical play such as wrestling or tickling
- ✓ remember that someone else might misinterpret your actions, no matter how well-intentioned
- ✓ recognise that sensitivity is required in moments when you are discussing issues, such as bullying, bereavement, abuse or personal development
- ✓ ensure that two adults are present whenever transporting young people in a car or minibus

YOU MUST NOT

- ✗ permit abusive youth peer activities (e.g. initiation ceremonies, ridiculing, bullying)
- ✗ play physical contact games with young people
- ✗ have any inappropriate verbal or physical contact with young people or make suggestive remarks or gestures
- ✗ jump to conclusions about others without checking facts
- ✗ exaggerate or trivialise child abuse issues
- ✗ show favouritism to any individual
- ✗ rely on just your good name to protect you
- ✗ be friends with or interact with young people on social media

WHAT HAPPENS...

If you suspect a child is being abused; emotionally, physically or sexually:

1. Immediately tell your Captain, Minister or other church official (*or for Church of Scotland Companies, your local Church Safeguarding Co-ordinator*) & inform BB Headquarters.
2. Record the **facts** as you know them.
You **must** refer; you **must not** investigate.



In any situation, if you think that a child is at immediate risk of harm then contact the Police or Childrens / Social services or relevant agency.

If a child discloses abuse to you:

- 1.** Allow the child to speak without interruption, accepting what is said, but **do not** investigate.
- 2.** Alleviate feelings of guilt and isolation, while passing no judgement.
- 3.** Advise that you will try to offer support, but that you **must** pass the information on.
- 4.** Immediately tell your Captain, Minister or other church official (*or for Church of Scotland Companies, your local Church Safeguarding Co-ordinator*) & inform BB Headquarters.
- 5.** Record the **facts** as you know them.

You **must** refer; you **must not** investigate.

If you receive an allegation about any adult or about yourself:

- 1.** Immediately tell your Captain, Minister or other church official (*or for Church of Scotland Companies, your local Church Safeguarding Co-ordinator*) & inform BB Headquarters.
- 2.** Record the **facts** as you know them.

You **must** refer; you **must not** investigate.

If you are in any doubt about what to do, contact BB Headquarters: **01442 231 681** (an emergency number is provided for matters outside of normal office hours) or email **safeguarding@boysbrigade.org.uk**.

The Boys' Brigade is a Christian youth organisation committed to providing a safe environment in which children and young people can develop socially and emotionally towards mature adulthood.

The BB operates a whistleblowing policy which means you can report a concern without identifying yourself.

[BOYS-BRIGADE.ORG.UK/SAFEGUARDING](https://www.boysbrigade.org.uk/safeguarding)