

## BISHOPTHORPE CAMERA CLUB

### POLICY ON CHILDREN ATTENDING CLUB MEETINGS

Following the guidelines recommended by the PAGB (Photographic Alliance of Great Britain: <http://www.thepagb.org.uk/services/advice-to-federations-clubs/>)

This policy is aimed at safeguarding children from sexual, emotional and physical abuse, or exploitation while attending BCC meetings.

The following club rules are already in place:

1. Club membership is open to children (persons under the age of 18).
2. Any child under 18 shall be accompanied throughout a meeting by a parent or legal guardian, or a responsible adult nominated in writing by the parent or legal guardian.

#### *Risk of exploitation.*

The main safeguards here are to preserve privacy:

1. The club already has in place privacy arrangements regarding members' email addresses and other contact details. Only members of the Committee or a person nominated by the Committee have access to this information.
2. All email communications to members are sent out as 'blind copies' so that recipients do not see other recipients' details.
3. From time to time photographs of club members participating in club events will be shown on the club's website. A Committee member selects and monitors all photographs posted on the website. Photographs of a child attending a club meeting will not be used without prior permission of the parent or legal guardian.

#### *Risk of emotional harm.*

While we do not wish to detract from the friendly, jovial nature of club meetings, the aim here is to safeguard children from viewing inappropriate images and hearing inappropriate language.

1. When the annual programme is formed, speakers will be advised by the Programme Secretary that children may be present at their talks and that material presented should be appropriate.
2. When Competition, Exhibition and Critique Secretaries request images, they should advise members that children may be present and images submitted or brought on the night should be appropriate.
3. Membership forms will advise all members on joining the club and annually thereafter that children may be present at meetings and they should act accordingly and in line with the Club's Policy during meetings.
4. Members should be aware of the presence of children and thus use acceptable and appropriate language.

#### *Arrangements for reporting abuse.*

The aim should be to spot and react to any potential abuse at an early stage.

1. Any concerns raised by the child, parent, legal guardian, nominated responsible adult, or any other club member should be reported to the Club's Child Protection Officer, or a member of the Committee forthwith for investigation and action.