



Behaviour Policy

Review Date:
Complied by:

Introduction

The primary aim of Wild Woolaston is for everyone to have fun whilst enjoying a varied range of activities that both challenge and engage all those who take part. To give Young People in the community the opportunity to develop friendships and relationships, learn citizenship, learn new skills and experience activities and adventure in a safe supportive environment.

Whilst the Leadership team and Committee are conscious of the fact that Wild Woolaston isn't school, everyone involved needs to respect the fact that the smooth running of the programmes, including visitors, camps and trips, can only be achieved with the co-operation, respect, and self-discipline of all involved. Ill-discipline and obstructive behaviour often leads to others not enjoying activities, and in certain circumstances can be dangerous if it prevents leaders and supporters from actively managing situations which involve some risk e.g. outdoor activities, cooking etc.

Wild Woolaston wants everyone (children, parents, guardians and volunteers) to get involved and enjoy themselves, however to facilitate this a minimum level of behaviour is expected from all who take part.

In recognition of this the Leadership team will consider behaviour, level of engagement and attendance when offering Young People opportunities to undertake activities over and above the weekly programme e.g. visits, camps.

All our Young People, parents / guardians will be asked to agree to support this policy for the duration of the child's time in Wild Woolaston Group. A signature to that effect will be required from all current members when this policy is issued and then on first joining the Group.

Behaviour Policy

The Leadership team sees its involvement as a partnership with parents / guardians in the development of a Young Person and is responsible for monitoring the behaviour of Members at meetings and activities. Where intervention is necessary parents / guardians of those who misbehave will be informed and asked for assistance in dealing with it.

It is the intent of the Leadership team to be pro-active and decisive with regards to discipline for poor behaviour. It is understood that a child's involvement at meetings and events is where our Leadership team has the best opportunity to teach and reach a child on a personal level and for this reason the Group does not intend to withhold meetings or events as a form of punishment for poor behaviour except as a last resort.

Behaviour Code of Practice

The young people of Wild Woolaston Group, agree to:

- Come along to enjoy ourselves and have fun.
- Respect our leaders and each other.
- Come to meetings regularly, on time and in proper uniform.
- Join in and engage with all activities and work as a team.
- Listen to our leaders whenever they ask for quiet or are giving instructions.
- Accept instructions from Leaders and section commanders.
- Not make noise or cause disruption during quiet times when game rules are being explained, or when a Leader requests silence.
- Treat everyone with due respect and not to discriminate based on class, ethnic origin, nationality (or statelessness), race, gender, sexual status, mental or physical ability, appearance, political or religious belief.
- Have no tolerance for bullying, harassment or picking on others particularly younger children.
- Recognise that some Wild Woolaston activities require specific skills before they can be undertaken and that attendance and engagement at training evenings will be necessary before a Young Person can take part in certain camps and adventurous activities.
- Accept the decision in any game invoking elimination if it is given against them.
- Stop immediately if warned about unacceptable behaviour.

The adults of Wild Woolaston Group, agree to:

- Act as role models for Members of our Section.
- To treat everyone with due respect and not to discriminate based on class, ethnic origin, nationality (or statelessness), race, gender, sexual status, mental or physical ability, appearance, political or religious belief.
- To apply the Behaviour Policy fairly and justly always, keeping accurate records as listed.
- To keep current with Safeguarding Training.

Disciplinary Process

All disciplinary actions will be appropriate to the young person concerned and take account of their age and personal circumstances. Parents / guardians will be kept informed of any unacceptable behaviour and actions deemed necessary to deal with the situation.

Decisions to issue verbal warnings and Yellow / Red Cards will be based on consensus agreement between all leaders present at a meeting, and not on an individual leader basis.

Individual Yellow Cards can be “earned back” by the demonstration of consistently improved behaviour over a sustained period.

Stage One - Verbal warning

If a Young Person demonstrates behaviour that has fallen below the “Group Behavioural Code” they will be issued a verbal warning by a which will be recorded by the supervising adult. They will be told to stop whatever they are doing and warned that they will be issued with a Yellow Card if they do not comply.

Examples of unacceptable behaviour incurring a verbal warning could be: -

- Continual talking, or verbal disruption when a Leader has asked for quiet.
- Continuing with unacceptable or disruptive behaviour after being directly told to stop.
- Persistent refusal to follow instructions, or the rules of a game

Stage Two - Yellow Cards

If a verbal warning is ignored, and the offending behaviour continues the Young Person will be issued with a Yellow Card. The Section Leader will record the name and details of the incident. The parents / guardians of the Young Person will be informed of the issue of the Yellow Card either at the end of the meeting or by e-mail following the meeting. The Young Person will as a minimum punishment automatically sit out the next 10 minutes of any activity. Depending on the incident the punishment may involve a longer time sitting out e.g. until the end of a game or programme activity.

More serious bad behaviour could result in an immediate Yellow Card

Examples of unacceptable behaviour incurring an immediate Yellow Card could be:

- Threatening language or behaviour – (not involving use of physical violence).
- Careless disregard of property leading to its damage.
- Challenging the authority of any Leader.

Stage Three - Red Cards

If the Young Person commits a more serious offense or several less serious offences (yellow cards) they will receive a Red Card. Again, name and details of issue will be recorded, and the Young Person will not be allowed to take any further event.

Parents / guardians will be advised of the issue of a Red Card as soon as possible. If practical the Section Leader will send for a parent / guardian to collect their child early. Sending a young person home (if he / she makes his own way to the group meetings) will be considered only after a parent / guardian has been contacted and advised.

If it has not been possible to contact a parent / guardian, then the Young Person will sit out the remainder of the evening under the direct supervision of an adult leader / supporter.

Certain offences could result in the immediate issue of a Red Card.

These include:

- Bullying or physical unprovoked attack on anyone
- Blatant vandalism to property or equipment
- Deliberate defiance of clearly given instructions - particularly where safety is involved.

If a Young Person receives a Red Card, he / she may be asked not to attend the next meeting and will be required to be accompanied by a parent / guardian to the next meeting they attend. They may be asked not to attend Camps or additional activities held during the week the Red Card is issued and the subsequent six weeks of organised programme. No refund of any subs or fees paid will be made in such circumstances. In some cases, the Leadership team may also request a letter of apology. The Safe Guarding Officer will be informed.

Stage Four – Formal suspension and possible exclusion

If a Young Person receives **three** Red Cards during their time in our Group then on issue of the **third** Red Card, the person will be permanently removed.

Right of appeal

If a Young Person feels that they have been unfairly issued with either a Red or Yellow card, he / she can appeal to the Safeguarding officer to review both the incident and subsequent action taken.

Wild Woolaston Group Behaviour Code Summary

Stage One - Verbal warning

- Behaviour that has fallen below the “Group Behavioural Code”
- Continual talking, or verbal disruption when a Leader has asked for quiet
- Continuing with unacceptable or disruptive behaviour after being directly told to stop.
- Persistent refusal to follow instructions, or the rules of a game the Leader will issue verbal warning. This will be recorded in the Section records

Stage Two - Yellow Card

- Continuation of unacceptable behaviour following green card / verbal warning during the same evening / event.
- Threatening language or behaviour (but not involving use of physical violence).
- Careless disregard of property leading to its damage.
- Challenging the authority of a Leader

Leader action - Young Person will be required to “sit out” for a minimum of 10 minutes, or until the end of an activity / game **and** a parent / guardian informed verbally at end of event or by e-mail. Issue of yellow card will be recorded in the Section records.

Stage Three - Red Card

- Commitment of a more serious offences than a yellow card.
- A culmination of several offences for which yellow cards have been issued
- Bullying or physical unprovoked attack on anyone
- Blatant vandalism to property or equipment
- Deliberate defiance of clearly given instructions - particularly where safety is threatened.

Leader action - A parent / guardian will be advised of the issue of a Red Card as soon as possible and they will be requested to collect their child early, or if the Young Person makes them way to group meetings will be sent home only after a parent / guardian had been contacted and advised, if a parent / guardian cannot be contacted then the Young Person will sit out the remainder of the evening under the direct supervision of an adult leader / supporter and issue

of red card will be recorded in the Group records. The Young Person may be suspended from the next meeting and must be accompanied by a parent to the next meeting they attend, and the Young Person may not be allowed to attend Camps or additional activities held during that week and the subsequent six weeks of organised programme. No refund of any subs or fees paid will be made in such circumstances.

Stage Four – Formal Suspension and possible exclusion

If a Young Person receives multiple Red Cards during their time in our Group, then this will be taken up with the Safeguarding Officer for permanent removal.