

# Staff & Volunteer Code of Conduct

Last updated May 2026 · Review due May 2027

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## The role of staff and volunteers

In your role at Base Camp you are acting in a position of trust and authority and have a duty of care towards the children and young people we work with. You are likely to be seen as a role model by young people and are expected to act appropriately.

We expect people who take part in our services to display appropriate behaviour at all times. This includes behaviour that takes place outside our organisation and behaviour that takes place online.

## Responsibility of staff and volunteers

You are responsible for:

- prioritising the welfare of children and young people
- providing a safe environment for children and young people
- ensuring equipment is used safely and for its intended purpose
- having good awareness of issues to do with safeguarding and child protection, and taking action when appropriate
- following our principles, policies and procedures, including our policies and procedures for safeguarding and child protection
- staying within the law at all times
- modelling good behaviour for children and young people to follow
- challenging all inappropriate behaviour and reporting any breaches of the behaviour code to Hannah Secouet — Designated Safeguarding Officer
- reporting all concerns about abusive behaviour, following our safeguarding and child protection procedures. This includes inappropriate behaviour displayed by an adult or child and directed at anybody of any age.

## Respecting children and young people

You should:

- listen to and respect children at all times
- value and take children's contributions seriously, actively involving them in planning activities wherever possible
- respect a young person's right to personal privacy as far as possible
- if you need to break confidentiality in order to follow child protection procedures, explain this to the child or young person at the earliest opportunity.

## **Diversity and inclusion**

You should:

- treat children and young people fairly and without prejudice or discrimination
- understand that children and young people are individuals with individual needs
- respect differences in gender, sexual orientation, culture, race, ethnicity, disability and religious belief systems, and appreciate that all participants bring something valuable and different to the group/organisation
- challenge discrimination and prejudice
- encourage young people and adults to speak out about attitudes or behaviour that makes them uncomfortable.

## **Appropriate relationships**

You should:

- promote relationships that are based on openness, honesty, trust and respect
- avoid showing favouritism
- be patient with others
- exercise caution when you are discussing sensitive issues with children or young people
- ensure your contact with children and young people is appropriate and relevant to the nature of the activity you are involved in
- ensure that, whenever possible, there is more than one adult present during activities with children and young people
- if a situation arises where you are alone with a child or young person, ensure that you are within sight or can be heard by other adults
- if a child specifically asks for, or needs, some individual time with you, ensure other staff or volunteers know where you and the child are
- only provide personal care in an emergency, and make sure there is more than one adult present if possible — unless it has been agreed that the provision of personal care is part of your role and you have been trained to do this safely.

## **Inappropriate behaviour**

When working with children and young people, you must not:

- allow concerns or allegations to go unreported
- take unnecessary risks
- smoke, consume alcohol or use illegal substances
- develop inappropriate relationships with children and young people
- make inappropriate promises to children and young people

- engage in behaviour that is in any way abusive, including having any form of sexual contact with a child or young person
- let children and young people have your personal contact details (mobile number, email or postal address) or have contact with them via a personal social media account
- act in a way that can be perceived as threatening or intrusive
- patronise or belittle children and young people
- make sarcastic, insensitive, derogatory or sexually suggestive comments or gestures to, or in front of, children and young people.

## **Upholding this code of behaviour**

You should always follow this code of behaviour and never rely on your reputation, or that of our organisation, to protect you.

If you have behaved inappropriately, you will be subject to our disciplinary procedures. Depending on the seriousness of the situation, you might be asked to leave Base Camp. We might also make a report to statutory agencies such as the police and/or the local authority child protection services.

If you become aware of any breaches of this code, you must report them to Hannah Secouet — Designated Safeguarding Officer. If necessary, you should follow our safeguarding and child protection procedures.