

Child Protection Policy

Newton Abbot Swimming Club follows the ASA Child protection policy and procedures outlined below .

Full details are available in the club Wavepower manual held by the welfare officer or can be downloaded from the ASA website

The Amateur Swimming Association (ASA) believes that all children involved in its clubs and activities have the right to stay safe and have fun. Sport develops physical skills, self-esteem, and the ability to be a team player, as well as the opportunity to achieve individual success.

The ASA is committed to ensuring that all children who participate in ASA activities should be able to take part in an enjoyable and safe environment and be safeguarded from harm. It is the clubs, counties and regions who will ensure safeguarding at a local level and it is a key theme in Working Together 2006 that safeguarding is the responsibility of every adult in the ASA, whatever their role, to ensure the wellbeing of children. Recent reports and research, including the government document “Every Child Matters” highlights this responsibility and the need for individuals, statutory and voluntary agencies, as well as all other organisations who work with children, to work together to achieve the best outcomes for our children and to safeguard them from harm. “Every Child Matters”, the overall Government Strategy for children, supported by legislation, guidance and policies, defines 5 key outcomes for children as follows:-

- Being healthy: enjoying good physical and mental health and living a healthy lifestyle.
- Staying safe: being protected from harm and neglect.
- Enjoying and achieving: getting the most out of life and developing the skills for adulthood.
- Making a positive contribution: being involved with the community and society and not engaging in anti-social or offending behaviour.
- Economic well being: not being prevented by economic disadvantage from achieving their full potential in life.

“Every Child Matters” places the responsibility for safeguarding children under the age of 18 with all adults who play a role in their lives.

In an ASA club this refers to all who work, directly and indirectly, with children including those responsible for the administration and coordinating of the swimming club and its activities. Furthermore “Every Child Matters” identifies that basic skills and knowledge are required by these adults, both paid and voluntary, to meet the identified outcomes. The Government’s “Children’s Workforce Strategy” identifies these Common Core of Skills and Knowledge for the Children’s Workforce as:

- Effective communication and engagement with children, young people and families.
- Child and young person development.
- Safeguarding and promoting the welfare of the child.
- Supporting transitions.
- Multi-agency working.
- Sharing information

The ASA has committed to develop the policies and guidelines within its current safeguarding structure to ensure children have a safe environment in which to participate in the sport and achieve to the best of their ability.

Wavepower 2009/11 sets out a framework for protecting and safeguarding children in swimming to meet the required standards of care that the sports governing body is committed to achieving and which children and their parents have a right to expect.