

Guidelines for Young Leaders Safeguarding and Boundaries

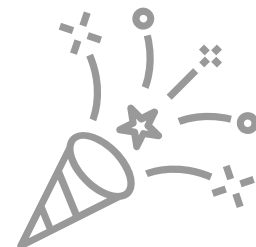


Congratulations on stepping into your new role as a young leader!

It's an exciting opportunity to make a difference. As part of your leadership journey, here are some key guidelines to help you navigate safeguarding and boundaries confidently and responsibly.

Know Your Role

- You're now a leader, not a member. This means setting a good example and being responsible.
- Understand that you have a duty of care to help keep everyone safe.
- Know who the Designated Safeguarding Lead is and how to contact them if you're worried about someone.



Keep Healthy Boundaries

- Be warm and approachable but remember you're a leader now - so keep things professional and avoid sharing too much personal information or asking others to.
- Communicating with group members:
 - Use official channels (group chats, emails) and keep another leader copied in.
 - Avoid private or one-on-one messages.
 - Don't message late at night (after 9pm) or use emojis that could be misinterpreted.
- Physical boundaries:
 - Be mindful with physical touch—only use if appropriate and clearly welcome (do not hug, hold, or play-touch, etc.).
 - Avoid one-on-one situations in private; stay visible and open.

Understand Safeguarding Procedures

- Learn what might be a safeguarding concern (abuse, neglect, etc.).
- If someone tells you something serious:
 - Stay calm, listen, and don't make promises you can't keep.
 - Let them know you will need to tell someone who can help.
 - Report to your Local Safeguarding Officer right away.
 - Write down what was said, using their exact words if you can.

Avoid Risky Situations

- Don't be alone with a group member.
- Avoid giving lifts unless it's pre-approved and another adult is present.
- Only take photos or videos if your group's policy allows it and proper consent is given.

Be Self-Aware

- Regularly ask yourself: "Is this appropriate for my role?"
- Talk to a senior leader or mentor if you're unsure about anything.
- Be open to feedback—you're still learning, and that's okay!

Keep Learning

- Attend safeguarding and leadership training when you can.
- Read and understand and help enforce your group's safeguarding policies.
- Watch and learn from experienced leaders around you.

Congratulations!

**Being a young leader is a big step, but you're not alone.
Ask questions, stay curious, and keep growing into the role!**