

## GOOD PRACTICE FOR LINKING WITH SCHOOLS

(Updated April 2018)

All clubs and coaches that link with schools need to be able to evidence that they meet nationally agreed minimum operating standards that demonstrate a commitment to the welfare of children. In summary, coaches working/volunteering in schools should:

- Be appropriately qualified and willing to show evidence of their qualifications
- Hold a satisfactory DBS disclosure
- Have adequate insurance
- Undertake regular training in safeguarding, equality, first aid etc.
- Read and agree to all relevant policies and procedures.



Schools need to be confident that any sporting activity provided for children whether after school or as part of the curriculum, is of high quality, safe and fun. The following are good practice for clubs (and coaches working independently of a club) when linking with schools:

- Ensure that coaches are appropriately recruited and vetted to assess their suitability to work with children. This should be supported by supervision, induction and training on the school's policies, procedures and guidance.
- Ensure the club/coaches have adopted and promoted the safeguarding policy and procedures of Basketball England as well as developing their own policy. Ensure these are made available to anyone upon request and that all parties eg coaches / teachers/ parents /children are aware of how they can get help if they have any concerns.
- Make sure that the Club Welfare Officer and coaches are aware of the schools safeguarding procedures and how to respond to any concerns.
- Coaches should be vetted by use of a DBS and their qualifications validated by the school.
- Coaches must ensure they have adequate public liability and professional indemnity insurance before undertaking any activities.
- Commit to continuous professional development and undertake additional training as recommended.
- Ensure that activities are well structured and varied to ensure that the needs of children of all abilities can participate - as an athlete, official, leader or volunteer. Ensure that you are aware of any additional support needs that any participating child might have and have a clear understanding with the school about how these needs can appropriately be addressed.
- Make every effort to ensure that coaches or other adults never work in isolation with a child or group of children. At least two responsible adults should be present at all times when activities are being delivered (the second adult doesn't have to be a coach).
- Appropriate changing rooms should be provided for the children as per usual school procedures.
- Ensure that the school guidelines are followed for parental consent and permission sought for any trips or fixtures away from the usual school facility that involve transportation of children.
- Communicate regularly and openly with the school's designated teacher/person.
- Ensure there is a clear agreement about who holds lead responsibility for any activities (e.g. school staff or club coach) and a clear programme of activities over the period that the club will be linking with the school.
- If you need to communicate with a child or young person other than during the delivery of sessions, all communication should go via the school or Local Education Authority (LEA).