

MYNYDD CLIMBING CLUB CHILD PROTECTION POLICY

The Mynydd Climbing Club (Mynydd CC) promotes activity and achievement by people of all ages, including young people, in every aspect and at all levels of mountaineering and climbing. A Child Protection Policy is thus required in order that the BMC insurers will cover the Mynydd CC and its' officers in the event of alleged or proven child abuse.

The Club has a positive attitude towards both introducing young people to the mountaineering world and to maximising climbing opportunities for parents. Accordingly members of the Mynydd CC are expected to show normal levels of care for the safety and well being of young persons during all activities associated with the Mynydd Climbing Club.

The Club 'Hut', Blaen-y-Nant, is used by instructed groups involving young people on a number of occasions each year (mainly midweek). This is viewed as a valid and worthwhile use of both the premises and environment, and the income generated makes a significant contribution to Club funding. The Hut Booking Secretary posts a list of forthcoming bookings in each issue of the Club Journal.

Six bed spaces in the Members' Room are always available for use by Members. All visiting groups are made aware of this, and acceptance of access by Members is a condition of the group booking.

Child Protection legislation only affects the Mynydd CC in connection with:

1. **Club Activities** - particularly those involving overnight accommodation.
2. **Use of Blaen-y-Nant while booked groups are in residence.**

In both of the above, the Mynydd CC does not indemnify, insure or take responsibility for its Members nor offer them protection in respect of any allegations of negligence or criminal activity toward any other person.

Any gatherings of Members and/or others may give rise to Child Protection issues, but will not affect the Club unless it is a meet organised by the Mynydd CC committee. Thus impromptu agreements between Members to climb with children at a particular place would not give rise to any risk for the Club.

Parents accompanying their children:

If children under 18 years of age are accompanied by their parent(s) on an official Club activity, the parent(s) bear full responsibility for deciding to take part on the meet, and for their children throughout the meet.

Parents not accompanying their children:

If a person under 18 years of age is to be present on an official Club meet **without** his or her parent(s), then the parent(s) **and** adult acting in loco parentis must both complete a consent form, 'Children Attending Meets'; this is available from the Mynydd CC website. A copy of the completed form must be in possession of the adult who is accompanying and responsible for the young person throughout the meet.

Parents not accompanying their children who are under 18 years of age:

- must make themselves aware of the nature of the accommodation being used, and also the nature of the mountain and social activities which are likely to take place. They are referred to the document entitled 'Children Attending Meets'. This may be downloaded from the Mynydd CC website, and is based on the BMC document 'Safeguarding Children in Mountain Huts', which can be viewed on the BMC website.
- must sign a consent form (part of the 'Children Attending Meets' document) and give it to the adult who will be accompanying and responsible for their child throughout the meet.

Adults responsible for other parent's children:

- must ensure that the young person's parent(s) are aware of the nature of the accommodation being used and the mountain and social activities which are likely to take place. The parents should, for guidance, be given a copy of the document 'Children Attending Meets', which may be downloaded from the Mynydd CC website.
- must have the consent form, signed by both the young person's parent(s) and themselves, with them throughout the Club meet.
- must act 'in loco parentis', and be appropriately observant and caring in terms of the feelings, introductions, whereabouts and activities of the young person in their care throughout the meet.

Adults in loco parentis are advised to retain the consent form after the meet.

Club Members using Blaen-y-Nant when a booked group is in residence:

- must sleep only in the Members' Room if the group contains young people under the age of 18.
- should be considerate and unobtrusive in order to impact upon the activities of the booked group as little as possible.

Note: throughout this document for 'parent' read 'parent', 'legal guardian', or 'carer'.