



To all Parents and Carers of children in
Merton's school community

Director's office
London Borough of Merton
Merton Civic Centre
Morden SM4 5DX

Date: January 2023

Dear Parents and Carers

Re: Important safeguarding information for children attending clubs outside school

We recognise that your child's engagement with extra-curricular activities and clubs has never been more important, particularly given the opportunities they missed as a result of the pandemic. We all know how much enjoyment they get from being involved with sporting activities and the physical and mental health benefits they provide. However, to maximise this enjoyment, their safety and care when taking part must be considered and paramount. The purpose of this letter is to provide some brief guidance on keeping children safe when attending clubs outside of school.

Important things to consider when choosing a club tutor or coach for your child.

- Is the club affiliated to a national regulatory body?
- Can I stay to observe the sessions?
- Can I read your policy on safeguarding children?
- Can I read your health and safety policy?
- What emergency procedures do you have in place?
- Can I have a copy of your code of conduct for staff, volunteers and for children?
- Are all staff trained in safeguarding and first aid?

When deciding on the right club for your child, please ensure that you check that the club is affiliated to a national body, for example the British Gymnastics Association. Affiliation to a national body provides assurance that those delivering the activity meet the professional standards and follow the safeguarding expectations of the national body, hence providing the level of protection you and we would want for your child. Also check if the club has any accreditations. This can either be Club mark accreditation from Sport England or an accreditation from the sport's national governing body or from Active Surrey. The achievement of this accreditation means the club meets minimum operating standards for a safe and effective sports environment.

We hope that this information is helpful and that children continue to enjoy organised activities safely outside school.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Jane McSherry', written in a cursive style.

Jane McSherry
Executive Director for Children, Lifelong Learning and Families