



Association of British Members of the Swiss Alpine Club

ABMSAC Child Protection Policy (2018)

The following policy is based upon the BMC Safeguarding Children & Vulnerable Adults Policy.

The policy relates to Children under the age of 18 on meets and visits.

The ABMSAC welcomes children to its meets but with the following safeguards:

- 1) They must be accompanied by a parent/guardian or an adult in *loco parentis*, nominated by a parent.
- 2) Has the agreement of the Meet Leader.
- 3) Has the agreement of the Hut Booking Secretary, if Hut accommodation is to be used, who will take account of the number and nature of other parties likely to be staying in the Hut at the same time.
- 4) The parent/guardian or other person nominated by a parent who acts in *loco parentis*, takes full responsibility for the care of the child.
- 5) The person responsible for the child should take all reasonable steps to protect the interests of the child including, but not limited to, sharp implements, hazardous chemicals, the surrounding environment and the activities to be undertaken.
- 6) The person responsible for the child should make decisions about sleeping arrangements for the child and seek the permission of the parent in advance. In the event that the responsible adult is in *loco parentis* he or she will countersign the attendance register to that effect and obtain a completed Parental Consent Form in the terms recommended by the BMC (<https://www.thebmc.co.uk/bmc-updates-child-protection-policy>) and send it to the Club Secretary for retention.

In Loco Parentis: A parent may give consent to anyone they wish to take their child climbing, hill walking or mountaineering. This is an arrangement between the parent and the person taking the child. The person taking the child will be in *loco parentis* and this requires them to exercise a duty of care that would be provided by a reasonably prudent parent.

If an adult is acting in *loco parentis*, the parent must nominate them, not the club. Also, that it is clear precisely who has the duty of care at any given moment and whether or not that duty of care is handed from one person to another. The ABMSAC require that a consent form is signed by the parent and available for examination. When taking another person's child climbing, hill walking or mountaineering it is wise to inform both the parent and child about the nature of the activities to be undertaken and any arrangements, so they can decide whether they are happy with these or decline the offer if they are not. It is important that they are not only informed about the activities, but also understand the nature of them and risks attached, so that they can make an informed decision.

Please see: Consent form, A parent's guide and Safeguarding Children and Vulnerable Adults Policy and Guidelines on the BMC website (<https://www.thebmc.co.uk/bmc-updates-child-protection-policy>).



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BMC Huts Consent form for adults in loco parentis

Clubs allowing adults acting in *loco parentis* to bring a child to stay at a hut may wish to require that adult to obtain written consent from the child's parent. This form may be used for that purpose.

Parental Consent Form

I give consent for my child

to accompany (*name of adult*)

to

from (date) to

I have been informed about the nature of the accommodation and the likely sleeping arrangements. I understand that huts may have communal facilities, which include communal sleeping arrangements.

I understand that the above adult will endeavour to ensure that appropriate sleeping accommodation will be arranged for my child, with regard to age and sex and with regard to the needs of other members present

In the event of illness or an accident requiring emergency hospital treatment, I authorise the adult named on this form to sign on my behalf any written form of consent required by the hospital authorities, if the delay required to obtain my own signature is considered inadvisable by the doctor or surgeon concerned.

Signed (*parent*) Date

Address

Tel Mobile

This form is to be completed by the parent(s) and given to the adult named above before the visit to the hut takes place.