

Avon Tyrrell Unaccompanied Child and Young Person Policy

Purpose of policy

To ensure that all participants under the age of 16 years are adequately supervised while not accompanied by an adult for their safety and enjoyment when participating in an organised event at Avon Tyrrell.

The policy outlines the clear process for the Outdoor Learning Team to follow to ensure the safety of the young people we are responsible for when left in our care to participate in an event.

Remit of policy

Organised groups	Family and Friend Groups
<p>E.g. Schools, youth groups and birthday parties</p> <p>Children and young people are the responsibility of the group leaders, and we expect our recommended ratios for supervision to be followed.</p> <p>Children and young people will not be left in Avon Tyrrell's direct supervision unless agreed by the OLLT for a significant reason.</p>	<p>E.g. Go Adventure activities</p> <p>Children and young people who are due to remain with a responsible adult for the duration of the activity are exempt from this policy.</p> <p>The following policy is set out for when the responsible adult wishes to leave the child or young person unaccompanied for any period of time.</p>

Duty of Care

Many parents or guardians exercise their duty of care responsibly. However, there are parents who allow their children to go to, or be left at, facilities with no supervision at all. This may be due to an assumption about the level of supervision that staff will provide within the facility, therefore this document is designed to provide clarity to ensure parents and guardians or those with adult responsibility for young people can make informed decisions.

Avon Tyrrell Event structure

This describes scheduled sessions which are available to any member of the public to book on to. As a result, groups participating together can be made up of a range of people who know each other, and those who don't, children, young people, adults and families.

Children Aged up to 7 years old

Children aged up to 7 years old are to always remain under the supervision of a responsible adult. The adult does not have to participate in the chosen activity unless highlighted in our activity restrictions document, but they do need to be immediately available should assistance be required.

Young People Aged 8-15

Young people aged 8 to 15 years old may be left unaccompanied by their responsible adult, providing the following conditions are met and fully understood:

- Both the responsible adult and the young person must be happy with the arrangement of being left unaccompanied and ready for the responsibility and emotional self-management.
- The young person is to be trusted to exhibit appropriate behaviour, be confident to ask for help when needed and to meet their adult again at a pre-determined place.
- It is recommended that the responsible adult should be on site for the duration of the activity and to be contactable in the case of an emergency or assistance required.
- The young person is to be left with a completed wrist band stating their name, the responsible adult's contact number and any relevant medical details.

Rationale

As young people are all individuals, and they develop at different rates, it is important to take each young person in to consideration as an individual. Parents, or responsible adults who know the young people are best placed to know those in their care-and whether they will cope with the situation positively. This falls in line with Government and NSPCC guidelines on young people being home and venturing out into the community unaccompanied.

Young children (up to age 7) are generally unable to effectively assess risk, and are still developing their emotional self-management, and as a result may require more one to one support and encouragement to positively succeed than is readily available on a standard session. They may also need assistance with personal tasks such as changing for water activities or with personal care.

Young people who are aged 8 and older are typically better prepared for the challenges which come with taking part in activities, and with the instructor being responsible for their safety during the session, the risk to them is greatly reduced. However, when the session finishes, the risks and opportunities for incidents to occur are greatly increased and so having the responsible adult nearby to meet and oversee the ongoing safety of the young person is important.

Young people nearing the legal age of adulthood (16-17) may have responsibility to venture further from home and for longer periods of time. It is possible they will have their

own transport such as a scooter or a car which does give greater freedom from reliance on responsible adults and so we have not specified guidelines for this age group.

Document Control Sheet

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Risk Assessment

	Hazard/Risk	Measure	Likelihood	Risk Rating
Emotional Distress causing short and/or long-term harm.	Child or young person becoming emotionally distressed at being left unaccompanied.	Children aged 7 and under are not to be left unaccompanied. Responsible adults and the young person concerned to both be happy with the situation.		
	Child or young person becoming emotionally distressed during the activity.	Any young person being left unaccompanied will have a contact number for a responsible adult who can be contacted for assistance. Staff trained to support and reassure participants.		
Inability to effectively assess risk or avoid harm	Child or young person not being supervised before or after instructed session-leading to minor incidents	Children aged 7 and under are not to be left unaccompanied. Responsible adults to pre-arrange suitable pre and post		

	<p>including slips trips and falls.</p> <p>This could be due to a misjudgement of the responsible adult on the readiness of the young person, or if an occurrence prevents the responsible adult from meeting the young person at the pre-arranged time/location.</p>	<p>activity plans-appropriate to the individual young person.</p> <p>Those aged between 8 and 15 years old should have their responsible adult on site for the duration.</p> <p>Young people aged up to 15 years old should be dropped off and collected at pre-arranged meeting locations and times on site.</p> <p>Responsible adults to contact Avon Tyrrell should their plans to meet the young person be disrupted for any reason. Reception staff to communicate with instructors to arrange alternative supervision.</p>		
	<p>Child or young person not being supervised before or after instructed session-leading to major incidents including drowning, falls from height, abduction, poisoning, getting lost.</p> <p>This could be due to a misjudgement of the responsible adult on the readiness of the young person, or if an occurrence prevents the responsible adult from meeting the young person at the pre-arranged time/location.</p>	<p>Any young person being left unaccompanied will have a contact number for their responsible adult.</p> <p>Young person is to speak to Instructor, who will inform Reception they are coming to wait for their responsible adult there.</p> <p>Reception to call the responsible adult, and flag if the young person does not arrive at Reception within 15 minutes.</p> <p>Any responsible adult who is unable to locate the young person should contact Reception where searches can be co-ordinated.</p> <p>Staff trained in first aid.</p>		
<p>Young person becomes unwell or has significant medical/add</p>	<p>Child or young person is unable to communicate feeling unwell, or their medical background leading to</p>	<p>Children aged 7 and under are not to be left unaccompanied.</p> <p>Any young person being left unaccompanied will have a completed wristband outlining relevant medical information</p>		

<p>Additional needs.</p>	<p>ineffective treatment.</p>	<p>which can be accessed by staff if needed.</p> <p>Any young person being left unaccompanied will have a contact number for a responsible adult who can be contacted for assistance.</p> <p>Young people with considerable medical needs or additional needs may not be able to be left unaccompanied if their needs are greater than the instructor can reasonably provide.</p> <p>All staff instructing sessions will be first aid trained.</p>		
	<p>Child or young person is unable to self-medicate- e.g., use an inhaler.</p>	<p>Children aged 7 and under are not to be left unaccompanied.</p> <p>If the young person is unable to self-medicate for any prescribed medication, they must not be left unaccompanied at any point.</p>		
<p>Justified changes from other Pastoral Care groups (e.g., Be Outdoor Days)</p>	<p>Child/Young person is not signed out by Avon Tyrrell Staff and the responsible adult. Could lead to minor or major incidents caused by the young person being unable to effectively assess risk and avoid harm.</p>	<p>Children aged 7 and under are not to be left unaccompanied.</p> <p>Young people left unattended will be issued with a wristband with personal details including name, medical information, and contact details for their responsible adult.</p> <p>Young people left unaccompanied will have a pre-arranged drop off/collection point and time to meet back up with their responsible adult. This will be relative to the young person's age and appropriate to their level of maturity/responsibility as determined by the responsible adult and young person.</p> <p>Avon Tyrrell staff will be available to support the young person to Reception should the</p>		

		<p>responsible adult be delayed in the plan.</p> <p>Responsible adults have overall responsibility for ensuring the level of freedom given is appropriate to the young person's maturity and emotional development.</p> <p>Avon Tyrrell reception will remain a consistent alternative to facilitate reuniting the young person with their responsible adult.</p>		
<p>Safeguarding</p>	<p>Unaccompanied young person is the only participant on the session-leading to a compromise in existing safeguarding policy.</p> <p>People photographing others that are not part of their group.</p>	<p>Where a young person is the only participant booked on to the session, their responsible adult should not leave them unaccompanied on this session. In circumstances where this is not possible, arrangements could be made to reallocate the young person to another activity running, where there would be other participants to ensure positive safeguarding practices are upheld.</p> <p>We do not allow individuals to photograph others that are not part of their group.</p>		

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Guidelines for Parents/Carers

The following information has been designed in line with NSPCC and UK government guidelines to help you make an informed and safe decision about whether your child should be left at Avon Tyrrell to take part in a structured event (such as Go Adventure) without direct supervision from you or another appointed responsible adult.

Each child or young person is unique, so in practice each will be ready for having new responsibilities at a different time. You have the responsibility to know whether the opportunity for independence is appropriate for your child, and whether they are mature enough to step up to their responsibilities and keep themselves safe.

It is important to remember that being unattended at Avon Tyrrell is very different to other environments such as a leisure centre or local parks - our site is very large, with a number of potential hazards such as deep open water, barbed wire fences and large moving vehicles. If you decide it is appropriate to leave a young person at Avon Tyrrell, they will not be supervised by anyone outside of the structured event - although help will of course be given by our staff in emergencies.

The following structure aims to provide you with carefully considered rules and guidelines specific to this type of structured event to help ensure your child or young person is safe while visiting Avon Tyrrell.

7 years and under	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Children must always remain under direct supervision of a responsible adult.
8 to 15 year olds	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Young people and responsible adults must both be comfortable and confident that being left unaccompanied is appropriate. Young people must have a completed wrist band showing key information (provided at Reception.) Young people and responsible adults must pre-arrange appropriate drop off and collection times and locations on site and be aware what to do if either is unsure or plans disrupted.
16 and 17 year olds	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Young people aged 16 and 17 years can independently visit Avon Tyrrell without any further guidelines.
Young people with additional needs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Young people who are unable to self-administer medication or who may require support for personal care tasks should not be left unaccompanied but are welcome to participate with a responsible adult overseeing. Young people with additional needs who require additional support that cannot reasonably be given by the instructor should not be left unaccompanied but are welcome to participate with a responsible adult overseeing and supporting as necessary.

Please note-that in line with our safeguarding policy, any young person booked to participate in an activity where the responsible adult intends to leave them unaccompanied, is on the basis that there is at least one other person present on the session in addition to the instructor. In instances where this does not occur, young people will not be able to be left unaccompanied, or where possible we will transfer the young person to another activity running at the same time.

All staff employed at Avon Tyrrell have undergone a Disclosure and Barring Check and regularly have Safeguarding and Health and Safety training.