



Changing Room Policy

Children of different sexes should change in separate areas, never in the same cubicle, or adjoining cubicles. This will help in preventing crimes involving covert use of cameras or phones.

Mobile phones and devices should not be used under any circumstances in a changing room area during Swim England regulated activity. All use of mobile devices in a changing room must be reported to the Organisation Welfare Officer and venue.

Responsibility

Under the duty of care to safeguard children, Garstang Gators ASC has a responsibility for the wellbeing of children in the changing rooms, however this does not mean that parents/guardians have no responsibility,

Parents/guardians of swimmers aged 8 and under, children who require assistance with changing, or with a disability who may require additional help that Garstang Gators ASC is unable to provide must remain at the pool throughout a session.

While a child is training or being taught, they remain under the responsibility and duty of care of the person who is teaching or coaching them at that time. If a Member leaves the pool area, the coach or teacher should be aware of this. If they fail to return within a reasonable time, or appear to be upset upon leaving the poolside, the coach/teacher must request that a suitable person checks on them. It is best practice for two persons to look for the Member (the second person could be a senior Member or a parent/guardian). See [missing children](#) section on page 85 of Wavepower.

If a complaint is received about an incident that has occurred in the changing room between a Member of Garstang Gators ASC and any other person, the club has a duty to act upon that concern as appropriate, following the guidance at the end of this policy. If the incident involved possible risk to children or adults at risk, you must also to make venue (pool) aware.

If the incident involves a person not associated with Garstang Gators ASC, the pool manager must be made aware and consideration given as to whether the statutory agencies need informing.

Parents/guardians should be aware that:

- changing facilities at venues may be shared by both Garstang Gators ASC Members and members of the general public.
- different venues have different types of changing room in use, i.e. separate for male and female or mixed changing villages (and what segregation measures are in place).
- they should not be alone in the changing room whilst children are changing, unless their child is of an age where help is required from parents/guardians or if the child requires additional specific assistance (as previously stated). In such circumstances, the parent/guardian must be the same gender as the child, unless the facility has family changing facilities or is a mixed changing village.
- during an organised event where other Clubs are involved everyone is advised (via the event information) whether or not the facilities are likely to be open to the general public at any time during the event.

The behaviour of Members in changing rooms is part of the Member's Code of Conduct and any behaviour contracts, where appropriate.

Swim England does not advise that adults supervise changing facilities as that places them and the children at risk of harm and allegation. Organisations may however place an officer or appointed poolside helper on the outside of the doors in and out of the changing rooms to allow Members to call for assistance if required. Designated Organisation officers may also walk through public areas (including village changing areas), particularly if the changing space is shared with members of the public, in order to safeguard Members. This approach has proved helpful to many Organisations when children have reported incidents of bullying or general behaviour issues between Members in the changing rooms.

Reporting a Concern

Where a member is in immediate danger or needs immediate medical attention, they or a responsible person should seek medical attention and/or contact the emergency services **999**.

Any concerns where a child is not in immediate danger should be reported to the Welfare Officer(s) at malewelfare@garstangasc.org.uk or femalewelfare@garstangasc.org.uk

Guidance can also be found on page 37, within section 2 of Wavepower.

Other Information and Helpful Organisations

Further information or advice may be obtained from the following resources:

- Swim England's Child Welfare and Safeguarding publication Wavepower 2024
<https://www.swimming.org/swimengland/wavepower-child-safeguarding-for-clubs/>
- Swim England safeguarding publications for Children – two leaflets for primary or secondary school age, available to buy or download from Swim England's website:
<https://www.swimming.org/swimengland/safeguarding-resources-for-children/>
- NSPCC: Call 0808 800 5000 or email help@nspcc.org.uk or use their [online reporting form](#)
- Childline: Call 0800 1111 or go to www.childline.org.uk
- Kidscape: <http://www.kidscape.co.uk> or call or WhatsApp 07496 682785
- tic+ counselling and support: Call 01594 372 777 or go to <https://ticplus.org.uk/>

Additional link can be found here on the Swim England website:

<https://www.swimming.org/swimengland/other-safeguarding-organisations-resources/>