

Online Scout Meetings with Young People



Safeguarding Guidance for Online Meetings

You must ensure that appropriate safeguarding policies are followed in all online communications with young people (from FS103011 'Social Networking Sites and Scouting'):

- Remember the Young People First, Code of Behaviour (Yellow Card) at all times
- Conduct yourself in an appropriate way as you would face-to-face
- Don't engage in one-to-one conversations with young people via chat facilities or online messaging – start all meetings with another adult
- ALL communications with Beaver or Cub Scouts should be done through their parents or carers
- Any communications with Scouts or Explorer Scouts should be copied to another adult

Our guidance:

- If sending emails to many people use the BCC function (or OSM Mailing Lists) to avoid sharing email addresses
- Engage with parents before an online meeting: recommend a parent is present, the background is suitable (background can be blurred on PC & Mac) and it is conducted in a public area of the house i.e. not a bedroom
- Inform all attendees before recording video or audio of your meeting
- Cover internet safety with young people in your first online meetings

Practical Guidance for Online Meetings

- Take the time to check in with your young people, it's a stressful and scary time for them
- Limit screen time and don't meet online for the full duration of your usual meeting
- If you have a large Section, consider splitting them into two, shorter sessions
- Turn off all microphones before you start, and then turn them on for those you want to hear from
- Ensure there are other ways to participate in Scouting at home, to include those without regular internet access
- Ensure all participants play an active part in online meetings, giving everyone a chance to be heard
- Encourage everyone to wear their uniform, and hold an adapted opening and closing ceremony

Tynemouth Scouts

We prepare young people with skills for life