



COMMUNITY TRUST

PARENTAL CONSENT POLICY

At Blackburn Rovers Community Trust (BRCT) we believe that children and young people's needs are best met when they are involved in making decisions that affect them and when we work in partnership with their families. This policy describes how BRCT seeks to play its part in this partnership.

This policy brings together our responsibility to consult with and obtain, the consent of children and young people, and to consult with and obtain, the consent of parents/carers in relation to our activities and events.

The policy applies to all staff and volunteers working for BRCT.

We recognise that:

- Children and young people have rights as listed in the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child, ratified in the UK in 1991. They include the right for children to have their views respected and their opinions taken into account (Article 12), the right to freedom of expression (Article 13), and the right for children to access information about themselves (Article 13)
- In accordance with Article 5 of the Convention, helping children to understand their rights does not mean pushing them into making choices about matters that they do not understand or with consequences that they lack the maturity to deal with. Parents are required to help their children make choices "in a manner consistent with the evolving capacities of the child". This is a principle to which (name of group/organisation) also subscribes
- Parents are the primary source of nurture and support to their children and should be supported in fulfilling this role
- In a small minority of cases, parents are not able to provide for their children's needs or to care for them safely without statutory intervention. If we encounter a situation where we fear that this might be the case, we have a duty to refer the matter to an investigating authority.

We will take the following steps to obtain consent, from both parents and children/young people, for children's participation in activities and trips/outings:

- We will seek parental consent and support for a child/young person's participation in activities and trips, regardless of the age of the child/young person (up to the age of 18).
- For all young people aged 18 and above, we will also seek their consent, unless our assessment is that the young person is not able to give informed consent (because of his/her level of learning ability or for some other reason).
- In all cases, consent offered by young people will involve signing up to the behaviour code and the safety rules for the activity or trip.
- If a child/young person is keen to take part in an activity that would be in his/her best interests to do so, but their parent/carer is not willing to consent, we will seek to address the

matter with the parent/carer and to understand the reason for their objection. If, having spoken to the parent/carer, we feel that the objection is reasonable, we will support the parent in conveying this decision to the child/young person. If, however, we feel that the parent's objection is not reasonable, we will attempt to remove the barriers preventing the parent/carer from giving consent.

- If a young person aged 16-18, with sufficient maturity to make his/her own decisions, lives separately from his/her parents and has little contact with them, we may consider allowing him/her to participate in an activity without the parent's consent. This will depend on the capacity of the young person concerned, our understanding of the reasons why the parents would not be consulted, and an assessment of any risks involved. In such circumstances, specialist advice will normally be sought prior to a decision being made.

Review arrangements

We will review this policy every three years. The next review date is July 2019. The person responsible for carrying out the review is the CEO.

