



**Scouts**

**1st Ince and Elton**

# **Youth Membership & Engagement Policy**

Ref number:	1STIEGP02	Date of issue:	08/06/2025	Prepared by:	Ashley Proctor
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# Youth Membership & Engagement Policy

## 1. Purpose

This policy outlines the expectations and procedures relating to youth membership, attendance, uniform, and engagement within 1st Ince and Elton Scout Group. It is designed to ensure fairness, transparency, and alignment with the values of The Scout Association.

## 2. Joining the Group

### 2.1 Allocation of Places

The management of the joining/waiting list is coordinated by our Scout District (Mersey Weaver). However, 1st Ince and Elton Scout Group retains the ability to offer places to young people allocated to us. Where more young people are available than spaces, we will prioritise offers based on the following criteria:

- **Progression within the Group** – Young people already in the Group moving to the next section (e.g. Beavers to Cubs).
- **Relocating Members** – Existing members of the Scout Association moving into the area.
- **Parental Involvement** – Priority may be given where a parent or carer is willing to support the Group in a leadership or governance role.
- **Family Connections** – Siblings of current members may be given preference.
- **Age Appropriateness** – Those closest to the target age range for the section may be prioritised to ensure timely progression through the programme.

All decisions regarding the allocation of places rest with the Group Lead Volunteer, in line with guidance from the District and what's written in POR.

### 2.2 Encouraging Engagement

Parents/guardians are encouraged to support the Group through volunteering, assisting at events, or joining the Group Trustee Board. This strengthens the Group and supports sustainability.

## 3. Attendance Expectations

Scouting is a progressive programme, and regular attendance is essential for full participation.

- Youth members are expected to attend weekly meetings unless absent due to illness, school commitments, or other reasonable causes.
- Parents must inform Section Leaders of any planned absences via email, phone, or text.

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- Unexplained absence for three consecutive sessions, or frequent non-attendance, may result in the young person losing their place in the Group.

## 3.1 Travel to and from Meetings and Activities

The safety and wellbeing of our youth members is of paramount importance. To support this, the following expectations apply to travel arrangements to and from all meetings and activities run by 1st Ince and Elton Scout Group:

- **Squirrels, Beavers, and Cubs**

Young people in these sections must be dropped off and collected from all meetings and events by a parent, guardian, or another designated responsible adult. They are not permitted to travel to or from the meeting place or event location unaccompanied.

- **Scouts**

Scouts may travel independently to and/or from meetings *held at the Group HQ* only if their parent or guardian has completed a **Walking Home Permission Form**. This form allows parents to specify one of the following options:

- I give permission for my child to walk **to and from** Scout meetings held at the HQ.
- I give permission for my child to walk **to and from** Scout meetings held at the HQ **on light nights only** (i.e. during the summer months).
- I do **not** give permission for my child to walk to or from Scout meetings, and a parent or guardian will drop off and collect them at each meeting held at the HQ.

This permission must be submitted in writing and will be retained on record by the Section Team. Verbal permissions will not be accepted.

- **Scope of Responsibility**

The Group's duty of care begins when a young person arrives at the meeting or event venue and ends when they leave the site at the end of the activity. Parents and carers remain responsible for the safety and welfare of their child during travel to and from Group activities, including when independent travel permission has been granted.

- **Review of Permissions**

The Group reserves the right to review or revoke independent travel permissions if there are concerns about repeated lateness, poor conduct at arrival or departure times, or other issues that impact the safe and effective running of the Group. In such cases, the Section Leader will contact parents to agree on a more appropriate arrangement.

## 3.2 Activity Sign-Up

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- Activity invitations are sent via Online Scout Manager (OSM).
- Parents must respond promptly, even if the answer is "no."
- Non-response may result in exclusion from the event due to planning constraints.

## 4. Uniform and Equipment

### 4.1 Expectations

Scouting is a uniformed organisation. Once invested, youth members are expected to wear the full and correct uniform each week and bring any additional equipment as required by the section. Full details of the uniform required for each section can be found on the relevant section page on the Group's website or alternatively, speak to a section leader.

Failure to wear uniform or bring required kit may result in the young person being sent home from a meeting or event.

### 4.2 Support and Second-Hand Kit

- From time to time, the Group has a stock of second-hand uniforms and equipment available that has kindly been donated from current and former members.
- Financial support is available for families facing hardship (please refer to our Financial Management Policy).
- Please contact the Section Teams confidentially for support.

## 5. Behaviour and Conduct

All members are expected to follow their Section's Code of Conduct and the Group Behaviour and Anti-Bullying Policy. Respect for others, commitment to the Scout values, and positive participation are required.

## 6. Communication and Review

This policy will be shared with all new joiners, is available on request and it always available to view online via our website. It will be reviewed every three years, or sooner if required, by the Group Trustee Board.

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