



BNSC Indecent/Child Abuse Images of Children

Bristol North Swimming Club (BNSC) is committed to providing a nurturing, friendly and safe environment for all our members, parents/carers, and volunteers who wish to participate in swimming.

To achieve this, we have established a set of policies and procedures which include this document. Our full set of policies and procedures with which all our members, parents/carers, and volunteers are expected to comply, are available on our website.

Our policies and procedures are founded on Swim England's Child Safeguarding Policies and Procedures, known as **Wavepower v2.1**. Links to Wavepower can also be found on our website.

The **BNSC changing room policy** and the **BNSC code of conducts** aim to prevent incidents relating to indecent/ child abuse images occurring.

Indecent/ child abuse images of children

- This includes photographs/ videos/images taken by children of other children in a state of undress.
- These images can be used to isolate and embarrass a child and potentially exploit and make demands of them against their wishes. The threat of this as well as the action can cause significant harm.
- Once in the public domain these images are difficult to control and know who has seen them and what they have done with them which can have significant implications that can reach in to the future.
- Girls are more adversely affected but boys can also be at risk.
- It is a criminal offence to take, make, send, upload and/or possess any indecent images of a child (including if taken by a child).
- Requesting/ encouraging a child to take/ make/ send an indecent image is also a criminal offence.
- Upskirting (taking an image without consent beneath a person clothing to observe their genitalia or buttock whether it is covered or uncovered by underwear) is also a criminal offence.
- The request to send an indecent image is also an offence, though for a child aged 13 and over to ask another child of the same age within a relationship context for such an image then action should be taken as per an *experimental* act.

Action if images are taken

- If deemed to be *experimental* then children's social care and Swim England child safeguarding team should be advised. Parental consent should be requested though is not essential.
- If deemed to be *aggravated* then the police, social care and the swim England safeguarding team should be reported to.
- If *aggravated* do not confront the person suspected or their parent/guardian unless necessary to avoid immediate risk of harm to the child.
- If *aggravated* try to secure or obtain the device but do not view/ request/ share the image; If it is not clear if there are such images then two appropriate adults should be present, and it should be ensured that images cannot be deleted.
- Welfare officers and other relevant staff to work with parents and young people to monitor behaviour and reduce recurrence.
- Inform the facility management where the incident(s) took place to look at ways to reduce the environmental risk as soon as possible.
- Information should only be shared on a need to know basis.

An example of *experimental* act would be a member of the organisation aged 13 or above who has voluntarily taken the image themselves and shared with another individual they are in a relationship with. For teenagers in a relationship this might not be seen as unusual behaviour.

Aggravated is any other situation, including incidents involving adults or under 18s taking, sharing or sending images without the knowledge or against the will of the individual who is pictured. This includes the requesting of an image.

Factors to take in to account with *aggravated* acts

- Age of the children involved
- Whom the images are circulated with.
- Coercion/ exploitation of a child using rewards/ threats to send/ share images
- Number of victims/ repetitiveness of behaviour
- Wording or language accompanying the image.
- Explicitness of the images
- Other background information.

Useful resources:

National crime agency's child exploitation and online protection command (CEOP)
NSPCC share aware campaign
Swim England welfare and safeguarding team

Other related policies

BNSC Codes of Conduct 2025
BNSC Welfare and Safeguarding Policy 2025
BNSC Changing Room Policy 2025

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