



Duty of Care

The duty of care commences from the point of receipt of a child to the return to the parent/carers and **the duty of care is non transferable**

Once a club accepts the duty of care for a child, that duty of care remains until the child is signed out and the club 'hand back' duty of care, normally to the parent/guardian.

The important part of this process is the 'handing back' of the duty of care, hence the reason SGs advice to clubs is to introduce a 'sign out' register.

The club need to decide exactly when they are prepared to accept the duty of care i.e. when the child comes in to gym at the start of their class, or when the child comes into the venue or when they are dropped off in the car park. The club must be quite clear on this point and inform parents accordingly.

The club should set their own policy and procedures with regards to the minimum age for a child to be able to go home on their own. Most clubs seem to be stating aged 12.

Once that decision has been made, clubs should then inform parents/guardians of this policy and that they should abide by this rule.

If the club deviate from their policy, they must have good reason for doing so. For example, if parents want their child to get home 'under their own steam' so to speak, therefore accepting responsibility for the transfer of duty of care, the club can allow this providing they complete a risk assessment and obtain written permission from parents for the club to release the child at the end of the session.

If the club feel there is a risk of harm to a child making their way home on their own, i.e. busy road, railway line etc. then they should not agree and enforce their own policy.

On the other hand if the club feels there is no risk, you can agree providing you gain written permission from the parents, that they accept this is out with the clubs policy and that they accept responsibility for their child's care from the time the child leaves **the gym (not the building) the gym.**