



## Group Inclusion Policy.

Approved by Executive Committee 13<sup>th</sup> July 2020

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### Version Control

Version	Author/ Editor	Release Date
1.0	Annie Bennett	10 <sup>th</sup> September 2018
2.0	David Thorne	5 <sup>th</sup> July 2020

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## Inclusion

This Document sets out Dringhouses (PC) Scout Group's (referred to from this point in this document as "The Group" or "Dringhouses Scouts") commitment to:

1. Uphold the fundamental values of Scouting in respect of Inclusion
2. Work closely with parents/carers of our young people with additional needs to improve their Scouting experience
3. Ensure leaders, who are all volunteers, have the support they need to provide an inclusive atmosphere
4. Provide an inclusive environment for members and volunteers

The Scout Association's Equal Opportunities Policy, as outlined in [Policy Organization and Rules \(POR\)](#), the guiding document for all Scout Groups states the following:

- a. The Scout Association is committed to extending Scouting, its Purpose and Method, to young people in all parts of society.
- b. No young person should receive less favourable treatment on the basis of, nor suffer disadvantage by reason of:
  - Class or socio-economic status
  - ethnic origin, nationality (or statelessness) or race
  - gender (including gender re-assignment)
  - sexual orientation
  - marital or civil partnership status
  - disability (including mental or physical ability)
  - pregnancy
  - political belief
  - religion or belief (including the absence of belief)

All Members of the Movement should seek to practice that equality, especially in promoting access to Scouting for all young people. The Scout Association opposes all forms of prejudice and discrimination, including racism, sexism, and homophobia. All Scout Groups, as independent charities, have a duty to comply with relevant equalities legislation. All volunteers should make reasonable adjustments where possible to support all young people with disabilities to access Scouting.

## Reasonable Adjustments

Reasonable adjustments means actions to enable young people with disabilities to access Scouting and Scouting activities, as far as reasonably possible, to the same level as young people without disabilities. This should involve working in partnership with parents/carers, to identify needs and support strategies. Reasonable steps should also be taken to identify any young people with disabilities in the Section/Group.

## Leaders and other volunteers

To carry out its work the Association seeks to appoint effective and appropriate Leaders, and to involve other volunteers in supporting roles, all of whom are required to accept fully the responsibilities of their commitment.

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The overriding considerations in making all appointments in Scouting shall be the safety and security of young people, and their continued development in accordance with the Purpose and Values of the Association.

Accordingly, all those whom the Movement accepts as volunteers must be appropriate persons to undertake the duties of the particular position to which they have been appointed (including, if relevant, meeting the requirements of the Sponsoring Authority) and, where appropriate, the responsibilities of membership.

In making an appointment to a particular leadership or support position it may be appropriate to consider the gender and/or ethnicity of the potential appointee, in particular to ensure appropriate composition of leadership or supporting teams.

The physical and mental ability of a particular potential appointee to fulfil a particular role will always be a relevant factor to consider.

Within these constraints, and those imposed by the need to ensure:

- the safety and security of young people;
- the continued development of young people; and
- equal opportunities for all;

no person volunteering their services should receive less favourable treatment on the basis of, nor suffer disadvantage by reason of:

- age
- class or socio-economic status
- ethnic origin, nationality (or statelessness) or race;
- gender (including gender reassignment);
- marital or civil partnership status;
- sexual orientation;
- disability (including mental or physical ability);
- political belief;
- pregnancy;
- religion or belief (including the absence of belief)

Note: Sexual feelings directed towards children and/or sexual interest in children is a bar to an involvement in the Scout Movement.

(End of quoted text: taken from POR chapter 2 Jan 2018 Version)

At Dringhouses Scouts we are applying these policies in the following ways:

1. Leaders will use resources, including the new starter pack and personal observation, to identify young people with additional needs.
2. Parents and carers will be approached to help develop an individual plan to help accommodate their child and will be asked to provide relevant information to target specific areas of need. The confidential nature of this information will be maintained in accordance with The Group's [privacy policy](#)



3. Sections, with the aid of the Group Scout Leader (GSL) and District resources where needed, will seek to make all reasonable adjustments possible to ensure the young person gains the fullest range of experiences and activities possible.
4. All sections will plan their programmes to take account of the needs of their young people and make reasonable adjustments to include all.
5. Accurate and secure record keeping will be maintained to help identify areas needing attention and individuals with additional needs who may benefit from additional support. These will be kept each section night and reviewed half termly.
6. Flexibility will be shown regarding uniform to those with religious or cultural requirements or additional needs and adaptations can and will be made where needed.
7. Due consideration of the safety and welfare of young people and adults will be given to the maximum number of young people with additional needs per section.
8. Scouting, being an activity delivered by adult volunteers, does not have a statutory obligation to provide 1:1 support. However, where there is capacity within the Group to provide additional support this will of course be done. Note that The Group is not able to undertake financial responsibility for the provision of 1:1 care should it be required.
9. We will continually review the hall environment to make physical improvements to accommodate additional needs.
10. In rare instances where it is not possible or appropriate for a young person to participate within The Group, even after reasonable adjustment, we would seek to find a place in the network of specialist Scout Groups for young people who would otherwise be unable to enjoy Scouting.

*This document provides general guidance and advice and each case will be assessed on its own merits.*