

Walrus Cruise



Over 95 years of sailing experience

Registered charity No 1045288

www.walruscruise.org

2023 SOCIAL MEDIA & ONLINE COMMUNICATION POLICY

"Let everything you say be good and helpful, so your words will be an encouragement to those who hear them" Eph 4:29

"So encourage each other and build each other up, just as you are already doing" 1 Thes 5:11

Context

1. An important part of the work of Walrus Leaders is to get alongside Crew, to enable them to support and encourage Crew and show God's love to them, both on a Cruise and afterwards. Communication with teenagers needs to use methods that suit them and social media such as Facebook is one such way.
2. However, the Cruise needs to be mindful of the risks to both Leaders and Crew. There is a risk that a Leader could be accused of inappropriate behaviour or communication, either justly or unjustly, and these guidelines are to protect both Leaders and Crew alike, whilst allowing Walrus Leaders to continue to support the Crew.
3. The overriding principle is that everything Cruise members do should honour God, whilst not putting them in vulnerable positions or exposing them to the potential for false accusations.

Scope

4. These guidelines especially apply to interaction between Leaders and Crew who are minors, i.e. under the age of 18

Guiding principles

5. All communications should honour and glorify God
6. Communication between a Leader and a Crew member must be 'public'. So, a Leader should include at least two other people, the Crew member and another person, preferably another Leader or parent
7. Extreme caution should be taken with video chats, which must take place when all participants (3 or more) are in 'public' spaces, i.e. NOT in a bedroom, bathroom etc
8. Retain all communications... in order to provide irrefutable evidence of exactly what occurred in case someone makes an accusation that there has been inappropriate behaviour (i.e. don't use Snapchat which deletes it)

Things to encourage

9. All Cruise members staying in regular contact with each other i.e. via the official Walrus Cruise Facebook site
10. Crew inviting other Crew and Leaders to be 'friends' with them
11. Setting up a group which includes both Leaders and Crew, for instance a WhatsApp group for their boat
12. Anything which is public and fun, such as using 'walls' in Facebook (and complies with the guiding principles above)
13. Emailing Crew but Walrus Leaders should 'cc' a Crew member's parent and possibly another adult, such as a Skipper or Mate (particularly from the same boat as the Crew member that year) or other Crew members

Things to avoid

14. Anything which could be misconstrued or twisted (very hard, but try to be aware of the possibility)
15. Using any social network, site or contact method which is not public, such as email on Facebook
16. A Leader inviting one minor to be 'friends' on social media, either verbally or electronically
17. Anything discriminatory, abusive, threatening, sexual, bullying or otherwise offensive or inappropriate