

Overnight accommodation

- Accommodation must be gender specific;
- Careful consideration should be given to individual needs when allocating;
- All participants, parents and carers should be informed about sleeping arrangements prior to the trip;
- The adults supervising the children, young people and adults must reflect the gender of the group;
- Night time supervision must always involve at least two responsible adults and no adult should be alone with a child or young person;
- It is generally not appropriate for one leader to share a bedroom with children or young people;
- In the case of a child with a profound disability or a specific medical condition, whose parents think that it is necessary for a leader to share with the child in a twin room, specific permission for this arrangement must be given by the parents and a risk assessment carried out. In addition, the matter should be referred to the activity leader and the Safeguarding Representative. In cases of any doubt the Safeguarding Representative should refer the matter to the Safeguarding Office for advice;
- Children and young people may be allocated bedrooms together. This includes year 13 pupils who have passed their 18th birthday;
- Children within a similar age range should be grouped together, bearing in mind that a 2-year gap in young people can represent a significant power differential. An estimated 30% of child abuse is perpetrated by others under the age of 18 and this should be taken into consideration when groups of young people are sharing bedrooms without adult supervision;
- Additional leaders should be assigned to assist with supervision on the first and last night and at other times as identified in the risk assessment;
- There must always be a sufficient number of leaders on duty to supervise the activity and appropriate cover available to supervise the children, young people and adults should the leaders on duty be called away in an emergency e.g. to take a child to hospital.

Specific considerations in relation to adults at risk

Leaders should not routinely share bedrooms with adults at risk. Adults at risk can appoint a person to share a room with them if they wish to do so. It will be necessary to clarify the sleeping arrangements for individuals appointed by adults at risk (e.g. shared rooms).

If there is a need for overnight care, this must be risk assessed and the person appointed with the consent of the adult or their representative.

For individuals who require overnight care but have not got a self-appointed carer, ensure that that the person needing overnight care will not have their dignity compromised by sharing a room or that the able sharer is not having their dignity/sleep disturbed by sharing.