

Speaking with parents, carers and young people.

**Guidance for Group Scout Leaders
and Section Leaders**

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Welcome

If you're in doubt about any of these checks please seek the advice of a professional. Guidance is also available [here](#)

Background

We need to consider how we effectively communicate with parents/carers and young people at every stage of our return to face-to-face Scouting. We'll need to update our members on new safety measures and logistics, seek consent to return to face-to-face Scouts, as well as introducing young people to the new blended programme.

Exactly how this looks for groups will vary, depending on local circumstances, risk assessments, relevant government guidance and the restarting framework. Whether restrictions are being removed or re-instated, we'll need to keep both parents and young people informed.

Things to consider

In most instances, communications should be prepared and distributed by GSLs and the Section Leadership teams. For District provisions, this would be done by Section Leadership teams working with the relevant Commissioner.

Engaging with parents and young people about a return to face-to-face meetings and activities should be done before the first activities begin. Groups should allow enough time for addressing questions and concerns, and engage fully with members before returning face-to-face. It will also be necessary to continue to inform everyone about changes and updated arrangements as we move between different stages of permitted activity.

Consent

Groups will need to get consent from parents and carers before young people first return to outdoor face-to-face activities, and then additionally when moving to indoor activities (when permitted locally). This is to clarify that they have read and understood the information and agree to their young person participating.

Different methods will be chosen by Groups to gather this information (email replies, PDF forms, online messaging, OSM features, e-signatures etc.). Whichever method is chosen, it's important that the consent is explicit and documented. This is in case it needs to be referred back to in the future.

Parents or carers of Explorer Scout Young Leaders will also need to provide consent before they resume face to face volunteering with Sections. This needs to be separate to any consent which is given for them to resume face to face activities with their Explorer Unit.

Speaking with parents and carers

Information to parents and carers is likely to be a written update and could be distributed by groups in an email or letter. The information should be available in a format accessible to all parents and carers. They will need to be made aware of the new measures you're putting in place to keep everyone safe, as well as information about how sessions will be run moving forward.

A common question being asked by parents is around the need to record attendance of those at Scouts meetings for the purposes of test and trace should someone be diagnosed with Covid. In normal circumstances attendance records are maintained and so it is important to reassure parents that this is a precautionary measure, retaining the same information as usual meetings and would only be shared if there was a need to do so as per government advice. This is not about recording anyone's details on any tracing apps etc.

Speaking with young people

Young people also need to be informed about what they need to do differently when they start attending face-to-face activities. The information should be delivered in an age-appropriate, accessible and engaging format, encouraging young people to share their own views, ideas and questions.

Groups might consider discussing the changes in advance with young people as part of an online Scouting session,

delivered through Zoom or similar tool. Young people need to understand how they should behave during face-to-face sessions. Groups may decide to create an updated code of conduct with their young people to help promote positive behaviour for safe face-to-face sessions.

Speaking with Young Leaders

Explorer Scout Young leaders (ESYLs) also need to be communicated with while Groups are preparing to restart. They should be involved in the planning process, and as with other volunteers and young people, they should have an opportunity to voice their views. Consent should also be given by the Young Leader's parent or carer before they return to face to face activities.

Risks and mitigating actions

Level	Permitted activity	Key communications	Who is responsible?
Red	No face-to-face Scouting activity allowed. Scouting can be virtual (online/video/phone). Scouting at home/with family e.g. using The Great Indoors resource encouraged.	Information relevant to online/at-home programme	Section Leadership teams
Amber	Where permitted by, and following, government guidance Scouting activities in outdoor spaces can resume.	Provide information about new safety, logistics and programme arrangements.	GSL/DESC/Section Leadership Teams
	Activities may resume in small groups indoors (England only)	Make sure everyone is aware that some who are vulnerable/shielding are unable to return, and outline how they can continue to be involved.	GSL/DESC/Section Leadership teams
	No residential activities.	Find out who is and is not returning, and gather any required consent.	GSL/DESC/Section Leadership Teams
Yellow	Outdoors Scouting can be expanded, and indoor Scouting can resume subject to following government guidance	Provide information about updates to safety, logistics and programme arrangements.	GSL/DESC/Section Leadership Teams
	Camping may resume in some nations (excluding Scotland) following		

	specific guidance for residential activities (to follow)		
Green	<p>Following government guidance, all Scouting activities may resume. Residential experiences and camps can take place.</p>	<p>Inform volunteers, parents and young people of restrictions which no longer need to be followed.</p> <p>Be ready to communicate the re-introduction of any restrictions, if the decision is taken to return to an earlier stage.</p>	<p>GSL/DESC/Section Leadership teams</p> <p>GSL/DESC/Section Leadership teams</p>