

Duty of Care – Events

Cadet events should run on a schedule that has been set by the event organiser and agreed by the VPC leader responsible for the event.

Cadets are in the care of the VPC leaders from the time of their arrival at or after the appointed parade time until the end of the event. It is accepted that finish times may have to be flexible due to travel delays etc.

Loco Parentis

The term in loco parentis, [Latin](#) for "in the place of a parent" refers to the legal responsibility of a person or organisation to take on some of the functions and responsibilities of a parents/carers. It allows the VPC to act in the best interests of the [cadets](#) as they see fit, although not allowing what would be considered violations of the cadets' [civil liberties](#).

This 'responsibility' can only be given in terms of informed consent i.e. parents/carers are told exactly what is happening and then give written consent in advance e.g. Camp or event.

Good Practice for Rule Setting

When starting a new unit/taking in a new group of cadets do an "ideas board" of what they think the rules should be. Suggest areas they might want to consider, but allow them to devise their own set of rules. More often than not they will self-impose all of the rules you would have insisted upon anyway!

Early Arrival at Events

Cadets who arrive early may be asked to wait until the appointed start time until they are allowed access to any event/premises. If however a VPC leader is available to supervise the cadets then they may be allowed access to a venue earlier than the start time, and at this time, the VPC leader takes responsibility for their safety. If an employee who is not a member of the VPC leadership allows cadets access to any premises then that employee takes responsibility for the safety and supervision of them. When working in partnership with other venues the VPC Unit leader should ensure that staff at these venues are aware of this responsibility. This should be documented in a Service Level Agreement in relation to the partnership arrangements. Cadet leaders cannot be expected to take responsibility for cadets that they do not know are present at premises.

The question of what action is required when a cadet removes themselves from a cadet activity is not clear. A 17yr old cadet (with no additional needs) who leaves a cadet meeting and is perfectly capable of making their own way home needs no care, however a 14 year old who absents themselves while on a trip to “Bodmin Moor” leaves us with a duty of care to ensure their safety. Decisions on this type of situation should be considered on a case by case basis and appropriate action taken.