

Angling Trust Guidance: Transporting Children Safely



Introduction: The Angling Trust, recognise the importance of ensuring the safety of children during transportation to and from activities. Parents are primarily responsible for arranging transport. We advise all coaches, volunteers and staff to avoid travelling alone with a child in their car. This reduces the risk of harm occurring to children by a few people who intentionally join our sport to gain access to children to harm them. There may be instances where coaches, volunteers and staff may consider travelling with children. In such cases, we are committed to taking reasonable steps to safeguard children under our care. A child is anyone aged under 18 years of age.

Key Considerations

To ensure the safety of children during transportation, the Angling Trust recommends the following best practices:

1. Avoid Transporting Children Alone

- Whenever possible, avoid situations where an adult is transporting a child alone. If unavoidable, implement the following safety measures:
 - Verify the suitability of the driver through vetting checks (e.g., Disclosure and Barring Service in England and Wales).
 - Inform parents of transport arrangements, including the driver's details, reasons for transportation, and estimated journey duration.
 - Ensure the driver has valid car insurance, MOT, and a driving license.
 - Confirm with the driver's insurance company that their policy covers volunteer or paid roles involving transportation.

2. Communication and Comfort

- A person other than the driver should discuss transport arrangements with the child to ensure they are comfortable.
- Provide the driver with a point of contact for each child and ensure they have access to a mobile phone in case of emergencies.

3. Minimise Risk

- Transport more than one child in the car whenever possible.
- Alternate which child is dropped off last after activities to avoid frequent one-on-one situations.
Rotate the person responsible for returning children to their homes or agreed drop-off points.

4. Late Collections

- Establish clear guidelines for parents regarding late collections, including their responsibilities and the consequences of delays.
- Maintain up-to-date contact numbers for parents and alternative emergency contacts.

5. **Seatbelt Safety**

- Ensure children wear seatbelts at all times during transportation. Follow legal requirements:
 - Children under 12 years old or up to 135 cm tall must use an appropriate child restraint or car seat.
 - Children over 12 years old or taller than 135 cm should use an adult seatbelt.

6. **Alternative Transport**

- If taxis are used, children over 3 years old must use adult seatbelts when traveling in the back seat.
- For minibus transportation, ensure all passengers wear seatbelts where fitted. Drivers are responsible for ensuring children under 14 use seatbelts.

If you do have to transport a child alone, please inform your Welfare Officer of this and explain what actions you took to mitigate the risk.

Empowering Children

The Angling Trust is committed to ensuring children understand their right to safety. We encourage children to voice any concerns and provide them with trusted individuals to turn to for support.

Contact Information

Parents should provide updated contact details, including an alternative emergency contact. The Angling Trust will also provide parents with a contact number for emergencies or late collections.

This guidance ensures that the Angling Trust aligns with safeguarding best practices while addressing the specific needs of the organisation.

Examples of poor practice

- Coach collects child and travels alone to a coaching event, as they live round the corner from them.
- A coach tells parent they will take their child to a fishing competition but fails to declare they do not have a current MOT or business insurance for the vehicle.

Examples of good practice

- A volunteer at a club explains that they cannot offer a lift to a child as they do not have a DBS check and suggest they ask another parent to help out.
- The club clearly explain to all parents/ carers when they join the club, that it is their responsibility to transport their children to and from fishing events. Coaches and volunteers are not expected to do this as the club follow the Angling Trust guidance to protect children.

If you have any questions, please contact the Angling Trust's Designated Safeguarding Lead by email at safeguarding@anglingtrust.net