



## **Working with young people: Child protection guidance for placement providers**

For adults working with young people, particularly those still of compulsory school age, it is important to be aware of potentially difficult situations. By following the simple guidance outlined below it should be possible to ensure that the placement is a secure and productive environment for both the provider and the student.

### **Touch**

There may be occasions when you need to touch a young person (for example when you are guiding them in carrying out a technical operation) but these should be kept to a minimum.

### **Behaviour**

Whilst it is important to reassure a young person who may be nervous in a new placement and reliant on your guidance, you should avoid being over familiar. Never permit 'horseplay' which may cause embarrassment or fear.

### **Environment**

Where possible avoid being on your own in an isolated or closed environment with a young person.

### **Travel**

Ensure that there is a known destination and check-in times with a third party in situations where a young person will be travelling alone with an adult during the placement. It is a good idea to have a mobile phone (or equivalent) available in such situations.

### **Mentor**

Those placed immediately in charge of young people should be competent in their work-role, mature in their attitudes, and yet, at the same time, be at ease with them.

### **Disclosure**

Occasionally, young people may disclose confidential information to a work colleague that gives rise to concern for their physical or emotional safety. In such situations, you should speak to your line manager and share your concern with an appropriate representative of the education provider (usually this will be the school's work experience co-ordinator or the headteacher) or the central work experience organiser.

### **Disqualification**

You are reminded that you are required by law to protect children from harm and that any employees are required, under the Criminal Justice and Court Services Act, to declare that they are disqualified from working with children.