

Common Ground Code of Conduct

These guidelines aim to ensure the safety, wellbeing and happiness of all those on camp.

Respect

- We expect people to show respect and consideration for all participants, including volunteers and staff.
- Move respectfully around the site – do not use other villages as shortcuts and be quiet at night, bearing in mind that others may wish to sleep earlier or later than you.
- We are an inclusive movement and discrimination of any form will not be tolerated. We view everyone as equals and respect our differences.
- Respect the site, locals and environment, this includes obeying their rules as well as actions such as recycling and minimising energy use.
- MEST-UP is always available to help with difficulties
- Respect people's right to privacy, including not taking/uploading photos that people have not given permission for.

Consent

- Be considerate of people's boundaries, physical, emotional or otherwise; be aware they may differ to yours and never pressurise others.
- No means no, and only yes means yes. You must ensure that someone wants to experience something before it happens. This may be sexual, intimate or otherwise.
- Be aware that people are less capable of making these decisions if intoxicated.
- Be aware that when you are intoxicated you still need to get consent from someone.
- MEST-UP is always available for any reason.

Safeguarding

- Villages must ensure sufficient numbers of responsible leaders at all times, in case of emergencies. The following ratios are required when supervising children at Common Ground:
 - 1 volunteer to every 3 under 6s
 - 1 volunteer to every 5 under 10s
 - 1 volunteer to every 8 under 13s
 - 1 volunteer to every 10 under 16s
- You should also see the Safeguarding at Common Ground Policy on the 'Policy' Section of the Common Ground website.
- Support services will be working a little differently on this camp to what has been in place previously:
 - MEST-UP, led by DFs, will be providing educational workshops and a drop-in safe space for anyone who needs it
 - Sanctuary will offer a daily drop-in (hours to be determined) for young people experiencing mental health issues - this will be staffed by volunteers with mental health training/experience
 - The Positive Energy Bubble (PEB) is a drop-in space primarily aimed at volunteers to support their wellbeing
 - A low-sensory space for young people will be available

Drugs and Alcohol

- Common Ground will take place within the UK under UK law, and as such under 18s are not allowed to consume alcohol.
- Safety is the most important thing: look after your friends and don't forget that you can always talk to your leaders, MEST-UP or someone else you trust.
- If anyone is found drunk or intoxicated due to drug or alcohol consumption then the primary concern will be for their health. They should be escorted back to the village and handed over to a leader who should take care of the individual. If this is not possible the Head Steward should be informed who will provide support until the person is in a fit state to return to their bed or take further medical action as required.
- Alcohol should be confiscated from all under-18s and anyone drinking in the central area. The exact procedures for this are at the end of the guidelines.
- Intoxication is not an excuse for bad behaviour. Adults should be aware of the fact

that they may be sent home from camp if they behave in a drunk and disorderly manner and that Common Ground is primarily a camp for young people.

- Alcohol under 15% may be consumed in the 'Pub' and in Villages, if Villages decide to permit it.
- If adult volunteers choose to consume alcohol, villages must ensure that there are sufficient leaders not under the influence of alcohol, to respond in an emergency
- The UK Law around Smoking and Vaping is the following:

Only over 18s may buy smoking/tobacco products.

If you are caught smoking by a uniformed police officer or park keeper in a public place when under 16, he or she can take away your tobacco and cigarette papers.

- Smoking and Vaping is only allowed in designated smoking areas.
- There will be a designated smoking area per town and Villages may apply to have an additional smoking area near their village in consultation with the Central Team.
- Any dealing drugs will be taken very seriously and will result in removal from camp at a minimum. This is also the case with supplying alcohol or cigarettes to under 18 year olds.

Bedtimes and signing in

- We encourage everyone of all ages to check in with their villages regularly and emphasise the importance of getting enough sleep to fully enjoy the event.
- Villages are welcome to set any bedtimes for people within their village at any given age boundaries they wish.
- Sign in is at 22:30, all central programme will stop for 15 minutes for this and all 13,14 and 15 year olds travel back to their village and sign in. Amplified evening programme continues from 22:45.
- We have a duty of care to all 16 and 17 year olds on camp, where there is no explicit bedtime or sign in for 16 and 17 year olds, villages are encouraged to consider their welfare with due regard to their levels of maturity and self-responsibility, which we acknowledged would vary considerably.
- Central programme is organised every other evening. This will finish at 23.30. At this point most programme including any amplified music will end. Volunteers can stay in the central area until 1.30am if they want to, and some centres will be open for low-key gatherings until then.
- After sign-in (i.e. from 22:45) there should be no amplified music in villages, recognising that while there will be central programme on some evenings, young people and adults in villages will be wanting to sleep. Campfires, chatting and singing

in villages should happen with respect for the needs of others in own and neighbouring villages.

- When amplified music in the central zone stops at 23.30, villages should also be quiet (and those coming back from the central zone should do so quietly with consideration for those whose villages they may be walking past/through)
- No 'Morning Cry' before 7:30 in the morning.

Going off site

- Anyone leaving site should sign out at the main gate, and also let their village know (e.g. by speaking to the village co-ordinator) that they are leaving site (including reason & estimated time of return).
- Under 16s will only be allowed off site with the express permission of a leader from their village, who would need to go to the gate to sign a group of 13-16 year old young people off site. Any under 13s will only be allowed to leave the site accompanied with an adult.
- We encourage people to stay on site if possible to fully take part in the camp, if you do leave site, remember that you are representing IFM-SEI and act accordingly.
- Do not miss clan (cooking, washing up etc duties) or mealtimes – if you have to, make sure that your leaders know in advance.
- There must always be enough leaders left on site, so ensure that you coordinate and communicate with other leaders in your village and district about being offsite
- If an attendee has been missing for two of: morning circle, lunch and dinner, the sign out book in both the village and on the gate should be checked and cross-referenced, they should be attempted to be contacted by mobile phone, and if this is not successful, there should be a systematic site search conducted. If they are not found, the police and the person's emergency contact should be contacted.

Breaches of the guidelines.

If you have any problems on camp, or feel that any of the guidelines have been breached, you may report this to your leader, village coordinator, a member of MEST-UP the volunteer support team or a member of the coordinating team. Any of these may pass this on to a member of the coordinating team.

There may be a number of consequences of breaching the guidelines including, but not limited to: verbal warning; talking to leaders; talking to parents off-site; removal from site or contacting the police.

Decisions taken by the coordinating team will be final, individuals will be able to appeal using the standard disputes and complaints procedure but only after camp is completed.

Most often, breaches of the behaviour guidelines will be able to be resolved by the individuals concerned, by their leaders via mediation. Where this is not possible or appropriate, or if there are child protection issues, then they will be referred to the coordinating team, who may in turn begin the Safeguarding or Disputes procedure.

The coordinating team will keep a log of every incident referred to them, along with the action taken.

Dated: 14 June 2022