

Photography Permissions Reminder 2016

Do you have a girl in your unit who does not have photo permission, or perhaps the parent or carer has selected the second box on the "starting ..." form?

Let's consider what the photo permission, or lack of permission actually means and the reasons why they are in place.

If a parent or carer has selected Option 1 that's great, the child can be photographed/videoed during guiding activities and the images can be used in national and local Girlguiding publicity, communications, publications or digital channels (e.g. websites, social media). Subject to decency and appropriateness to guiding of course!

However, if Option 2 has been selected, then the child can still be photographed BUT this option ONLY grants permission for photos/videos to be used on noticeboards in your unit meeting place or sharing photos from recent events/activities at a presentation evening or use within programme activities. *You cannot publish photos of children with this permission on your unit website or in any online groups even if the group is private or secret and that includes obscured faces or any other parts of the child.*

If Option 3 is selected, then that means no photos should EVER be taken of the child whilst she undertakes guiding activities. No photos mean just that; no images of the child should be taken and that also includes obscured faces or any other parts of the child. They cannot be at the back or to the side of a picture.

There can be many reasons as to why a child may not have full or part photo permission but in many cases it is because recognition may actually be an issue in relation to a child's safety. Blanking a child's face (or putting a sticker over it), would not hide enough of the child - it may be the rucksack they are wearing was a gift from the very person they are being kept safe from, they may have a distinctive stance, pair of trainers etc. It is worth remembering that some of these people are not just estranged parents but could be unrelated people who are sadly very clever at trying to achieve an aim and pursue a vulnerable child. A distinctive piece of clothing could possibly be given to a girl in order to identify them in a photo!

It is often the case that photographs of looked-after children must not be posted by carers on Facebook, BeBo, or other internet sites, as it could place children at risk of exploitation or abuse, and it could jeopardise the security of their placement.

The permission to have photos is exactly that 'permission' and unless we have it, no one should be taking photos of the girls and if we (or anyone else in the Guiding environment) do (albeit by accident), then it is the Leaders' responsibility that they must not reproduced or shared, however good they are.

Please note: Large-scale event photo permissions do not apply to the above. The girl's parents will be asked for photo permission when signing their daughter up for an event. Any girl with a coloured arm band at the event does not have photo permission and will need to be avoided by photographers.