

ADVICE FOR PARENTS CONCERNING YOUNG PEOPLE AT LASHAM

Introduction

Lasham Gliding Society wants parents to be fully aware of the limited levels of supervision the Society can practically provide for their child at Lasham, especially at times when the child is not involved in flying activities.

Although we do not want to put unnecessary restrictions in the way of any young person keen to participate in gliding, we consider it important that parents clearly understand what they can, and cannot, expect the club to do towards caring for their child whilst on Lasham Airfield. To this end we ask you to consider the following and if you understand and agree with it, to return one copy signed as indicated.

Children under the age of fifteen

Children under the age of fifteen are only allowed on the airfield and premises if they are in the continual care and supervision of their parents or an adult nominated by the parents.

Children can start learning to glide at 13 years of age. They must of course be heavy enough for the safe operation of the glider and they must be big enough to be strapped in safely and to see out. They would need to be close to 5 feet (1.5m) tall and weigh at least 98 lbs (45 kg). The solo age for gliding is 14 years and for this they will require a CAA medical certificate from their GP.

During the 'flying hours' of the course, usually 8.30 am to 6 pm, Lasham will agree to no parental presence, provided the course instructor agrees, the young person accepts he stays with the course group and the office has a contact phone number.

Young people who are fifteen and older

Lasham accepts flying members from the age of 13 upwards. Once they have reached the age of 15 we accept that young people above this age will often not have parental supervision whilst here.

What parents can expect Lasham to do

Lasham sees flight safety as its highest priority. The Society will do all it can to ensure your child is safe whilst involved in flying activities both on the ground and in the air. This starts with a briefing that points out the immediate hazards and further briefings are given as an integral part of learning to fly a glider. Air and ground safety tuition continues well past the first solo stage.

Once the young person goes out to the launch point to fly, their flying and safe conduct on the ground is the concern of the instructors involved. The safety aspects of flying and ground operations are structured and are the responsibility of the Chief Flying Instructor. He devolves safety through all the instructors under him.

Parents need to understand

Any young person joining Lasham is joining an adult members club and all members of any age

come and go when they please with no formality. For young people this means that, unlike going to school where teachers take on some parental responsibility for part of the day, or a Scout camp where Leaders do the same thing 24 hours a day, coming to Lasham is different. Apart from the start of a pre-booked course, there is no one here who checks a young person has arrived and who accepts a degree of responsibility for them.

What Lasham cannot do

Lasham does not attempt to provide supervision for young people other than that associated with our flying activities. When any young person is not flying they may return to the clubhouse, go home, or pursue other activities with friends, the club does not and cannot supervise this.

Lasham tries to treat all members the same regardless of their age but certain rules and procedures do apply to those under 18.

1. Under 18's staying in Lasham overnight accommodation are given single rooms where possible and are not allowed to share double rooms with an un-related adult.
2. Under 16's cannot stay at Lasham overnight
3. No alcohol is served to anyone under 18 in the bar.
4. Anyone without a full UK driving license is not allowed to drive any vehicle on the airfield. This prohibits young people driving Lasham's vehicles and our insurers have stipulated they are not insured to do so.

Sometimes young people want to stay at Lasham overnight either in tents or caravans that they provide for themselves. Lasham operates in daylight only and has no staff on duty at night. Although the airfield has barriers, gates and fences, unauthorised public access cannot be prevented. Parents must satisfy themselves that any overnight arrangements their children make are sensible and safe.

Another area of concern is transport to and from the airfield. Lasham has virtually no public transport and although some young people who live within a few miles do cycle here the majority rely on their parents for travel. Parental transport is obviously ideal but not always possible. Your child may get to know a member here and be offered a lift, which may be acceptable to you or not. The important thing you need to know is if this happens it will not be an arrangement made with the agreement and consent of the Lasham Gliding Society, simply because the Society will not know about it.

Young people are welcome to be members and fly at Lasham but, because they represent a tiny proportion of the membership, it is difficult for the Society to make special arrangements for all their individual needs.

If a young person has any concerns about his or her treatment at Lasham they should be advised to contact you immediately, there is a phone available 24 hours a day in the clubhouse. A young person with a problem should also report it to the general office.

If any parent has any concerns about the information in this note or related issues or has any questions about the points raised in here please contact the Lasham General Manager.

As parent of.....I acknowledge receipt of the above information.

Signed Date
