

We know how special it is to get together with friends and fellow crafters to make things and learn new skills. We believe a safe craft club is a happy craft club so we have put together some advice on ensuring your club is welcoming for everyone.

Craft Club Code of Conduct

We suggest all Craft Clubs follow these guidelines:

- Make sure you've read and understood this guidance on safeguarding and are aware of the procedures for reporting concerns
- Hold sessions in a public place if possible, and avoid being alone with members of your craft club. Children should always be supervised by more than one adult
- Avoid physical contact with members of your craft club, whether adults or children—particularly if it could be perceived as threatening or intrusive
- Treat all craft club members equally, regardless of ability, age, gender, sexual orientation, race, religion or other characteristics
- Be a good role model to your club and avoid inappropriate language or behaviour
- If you take photos of your club, ensure you have the permission of all members. You will need written permission from parents/carers to take photos of members who are under 18
- Be aware of where the first aid point is and who is the right person to contact in an emergency



Meeting for the first time

Although some clubs meet in people's homes, these are often for people who know each other already. If you're opening your club to the public, it is best to host your club in a public space, such as a café, a pub or a community centre, where there are other members of staff on hand.



Sharing contact details

Many craft clubs are in public spaces and welcome members of the public to join in, which is what makes it so special! However, it is good practice to take some precautions. When advertising your craft club you might want to include some contact details so that new members can get in touch for further information. Avoid sharing personal phone numbers and email addresses—you could create a new generic email without any personal information (e.g. knitandnatter@gmail.com) or set up a Facebook or Instagram page and invite people to get in touch that way. If your craft club is based in a public space such as a library or community centre, use their phone number instead of your own.

Risk assessment for practical activity

It's important to bear in mind the health and safety of your members. It might sound scary but once you get the hang of it, it's really easy! We've made a simple risk assessment template to help you identify any risks that may arise during your session and how to take the necessary measures to ensure a safe environment.

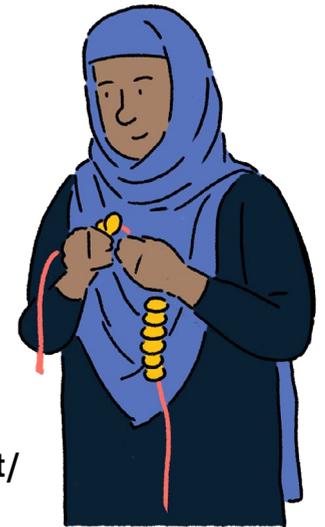
www.craftscouncil.org.uk/content/files/Risk_Assessment_For_Craft_Clubs.docx

Access and catering

In the UK, 1 in 5 people have a disability so it is good practice to ensure your craft club is accessible for everyone. If you host a craft club in a space which has accessibility barriers such as stairs or unlevel access, it is good to flag this with people upon initial contact. Take a look at the National Disability Authority's toolkit for more advice on accessibility:

www.nda.ie/Resources/Accessibility-toolkit/

If your craft club has a sweet tooth and you like to provide biscuits or cake, it's good practice to be aware of allergies. Always keep biscuit wrappers so that people can check the ingredients before snacking. If you're working with children, check in with parents or guardians first about what they can and can't eat.



Crafters with special educational needs

The Crafts Council believes that craft is for everyone and encourages craft clubs to be as inclusive as possible. Engaging people with special educational needs and disabilities may seem like it requires expertise, but we have some really handy resources to support club leaders in doing so, such as Easy Read versions of our step-by-step activity guides. Take a look at this resource to help you deliver workshops and activities that people with special educational needs and disabilities can get the most out of.



www.craftscouncil.org.uk/content/files/Crafters_with_SEND_Resource_OL.pdf

Resources/signposting for mental health

As a craft club leader, you may find that some of your members feel comfortable enough to open up to you about all sorts of challenges in their lives, including mental health problems such as depression or anxiety. Sometimes it can be tricky to know how best to support someone. Your role as a craft club leader is to provide a place to craft—you're not a mental health professional! The best thing to do is to provide a listening ear and encourage people to seek specialist help if appropriate.

Organisations such as Mind have some really useful online resources and toolkits about how people can mental health support.

If someone is struggling with a particular issue, such as bereavement or homelessness, there may be a specialist organisation that can help—a quick google search will come up with lots of suggestions.

Winding down craft clubs

Sadly, all good things must come to an end and there may come the day when you want to wind down your craft club. Some people may grow attached to their club and find it difficult to adjust to life without it. They might find it helpful to be directed to other local craft clubs.



The Crafts Council team are happy to help with this and any other craft club queries, please feel free to email participation@craftscouncil.org.uk for more information.