

Equal Opportunities and Inclusion Policy

Alton Gymnastics Club is committed to standards of conduct through the principals of equity and good moral and ethical frameworks. All persons must respect the rights, dignity and worth of every human being. All individuals will be treated fairly and equally regardless of gender, age, ethnic origin, religion, political persuasion or disability. Sexual and racial harassment and discrimination are prohibited.

Children with special individual needs

Where necessary, a full risk assessment will be carried out before offering a place to a child with a severe physical disability or learning impairment. It may not always be possible to offer the class, but it is important that coaches recognise and support this policy and that they are willing to adapt some aspects of their teaching if necessary and feasible. There are some situations where it may be deemed unsafe for a particular individual to participate. If it is deemed that participation of an individual will result in unnecessary risk to that individual or to other participants or coaches and if this risk cannot be reasonably managed, we may have to refuse to allow the individual to participate on grounds of reasonable safety.

Coaches are expected to follow any guidelines that have been given for dealing with individual children who have special needs. These may be as a result of a medical condition, learning or physical disability. Coaches are fully informed on a need-to-know basis of any children who have special requirements in their class. This information can also be found on the child's annual registration form.

The most frequently occurring needs to date within Alton Gymnastics Club have been to do with asthma and respiratory problems, mild cardiac problems (eg heart murmurs), learning difficulties, medical conditions affecting temperament, deafness or partial deafness. Coaches cannot be expected to have full medical knowledge of the child's condition but should take into account how it may affect the child's participation in the class and be flexible accordingly.

It is the responsibility of the parent to inform the club if their child has any medical condition, or disability and to make us aware of how this may affect his/her participation and performance in a gymnastics class.

We strongly recommend that parents watch a few classes before enrolling a child with special individual needs so that they themselves have an idea of what it involves.

Alton Gymnastics Club do not currently run classes specifically for gymnasts with a disability as we have no coaches who are thus qualified.