

Guidelines & FAQs - Keston Munch

These are based on the ground rules used for most munches, but have been adapted accordingly. While different munches have different ground rules, these should give you a good idea of what's commonly expected for a munch held in a private venue.

Guidelines vs Rules

Munches are generally pretty laid back affairs. All of the concepts discussed really fall in to two categories:

1. Consider everyone else, remembering everyone has different kinks and limits.
2. Don't do anything that will get us banned from using the premises in the future - Keep it street legal. Remember those two concepts and it's all pretty obvious.

If someone is bothering you, speak to the organiser. I will go to a lot of trouble to deal with things both fairly and discretely. In a lot of cases someone else simply acts in a different way to your standards - that's not right or wrong, just different, and telling them they're wrong only causes offence. That said, if someone's behaviour is offensive, I will quietly ask him or her to amend it and/or ask him or her to leave as appropriate.

Questions and Answers

What Do You Mean By "Street Legal"?

Keep it legal. No illegal drugs (pot included). Beyond that it's pretty much up to you. No one expects you to wear PVC, leather or rubber, but if you wish to, that's your right. Collars are more than welcome. Street Legal also applies to general behaviour. No harassing the bar staff or any non-scene folk who may be around. Drink by all means, just keep it relatively sober and inoffensive.

I'm In The Closet, What About Confidentiality

We absolutely will enforce this rule. Outing people isn't cool. They are not hypocrites they have their reasons and should be respected. Anyone who does out others without their express consent will be barred from future meets.

Who Can Attend?

Anyone who is involved in D/s and/or BDSM lifestyles or wishes to be. The venue is scene and TV/TS/TG friendly.

Can I Bring Someone along?

Yes, as long as they have a genuine personal interest in the scene and are not going to cause problems or embarrass other people.

Is Everyone Comfortable With 'The Lifestyle'?

Those attending the munch are, obviously interested in the scene in some way. But they may not consider themselves to be 'lifestylers'. Remember that the scene has a lot of different aspects. Just because you are interested in a given aspect, remember that your kink is not necessarily someone else's.

Everyone at the munch should feel able to talk about any safe, sane and consenting activity, as long as they are not being deliberately offensive or abusive. If you find the subject matter of a conversation uncomfortable, please don't make that the other person's problem! If someone else's sub seems bratty, or someone else's Dom/me doesn't act in a way you approve of, you do not have the right to tell them.

If someone's behaviour is offensive, speak to the organiser and he will deal with it fairly and discretely.

How Do I Find The Organiser(s)?

The Keston munch is run by **Master Ice** aka **Slim** aka **IceCreamman**

The munch welcomes new people. If there's a new face I'll do my best to make sure you feel welcome and comfortable. This should mean you already know who I am. If you don't know my face, and need to speak to me, just ask, - I am fairly well known.

If you have never been to a scene event, a munch is a good place to start. If you are nervous, feel free to email me in advance. I'll do my best to answer any questions you may have, and may be able to arrange for someone to meet you.
The e-mail address is themunch@btinternet.com

Can I Meet Prospective Partners, Dominants or submissives?

The munches are, first and foremost, a place for people to relax and be themselves. Just like any group, some people are in couples, others happily single and others may be seeking a partner. If someone is not interested, respect that: no' means 'no'.

If you and a prospective partner want to meet for the first time at a munch, that's fine (and sensible from a safety point of view). 'Hitting' on strangers won't be tolerated, though.

What Is The Expected Behaviour For Submissives?

Exactly the same as for everyone else. Do whatever makes you comfortable and does not harm anyone else. No Dom/me has the right to give an order unless explicitly given that right. In my view, all subs and Dom/mes are equal but different. Everyone deserves to be treated with respect and courtesy.

Can I Do Light Play?

This largely depends on your definition of play. Subs fetching drinks and kneeling is fine. Full-on S/M scening and punishment isn't. Remember the consensual concept - just because people are into D/s. doesn't mean they want to see SM play. However, there may be some goods on sale at the munch, and it would be daft to say that you can't try them out (within reason). And as time continues there MAY be a possibility for the inclusion of an area for play - but that may be some considerable time hence.

What About Collaring?

Some of us regard collaring as something intensely personal. However if you feel that the Keston Munch is an appropriate venue for your special occasion, we would be more than happy to discuss your needs but would ask that you give me plenty of notice.

What About Cameras?

A lot of people may be meeting in person for the first time after knowing each other from the net. It is understandable that they may want pictures for mementoes. Just remember that a lot of other people do not want to be included in pictures.

If you want to take a picture, make sure you have the permission of everyone involved, even in the background, and give those who don't want to be involved plenty of time to get out of the shot. If you do not do so, you may be asked to delete the picture, or expose your film in order to reassure anyone accidentally caught in shot who is worried about being 'outed'.

This shouldn't occur however, because the venue for the Keston Munch has large amounts of area outside so you should be able to find a place to take your photos without risking accidentally getting someone else in shot.

Remember, not everybody is 'out' and the consequences of publishing photos could be harmful. Always ask the permission of all those who are in the picture, before publishing the photograph.

Complaints received about publishing photos without people's consent will be taken very seriously

I'm a journalist/author Researching The Scene, Am I Welcome?

Too many people in the scene have been hurt by sensationalist journalism. The News of the World having been exceptionally offensive. Quite understandably journalists are not entirely welcome. That said if you have a genuine interest in facts rather than fiction (or are a scene journalist) I would be more than happy to try to arrange a separate meeting with consenting individuals who will be willing to take part in an interview.

Why Not Vary The Location?

Keeping the same location is deliberate. The Keston munch was intended to fill a presently vacant area on the munch-map. It also saves having to give different directions each month.

The current venue may not be the best location for everyone, I can't personally organise one everywhere and don't want to lessen the existing event by changing its location each month.

NB: By attending the Keston munch, you are agreeing that you are over 18 and to be bound by everything that is written here. If you do not think that you can keep within the guidelines, We suggest that a visit to the London Fetish scene or Informed Consent web sites might help you to find events where you may feel more at home.