



Safeguarding and Child Protection Policy

1. Introduction

Safeguarding is defined as protecting children from maltreatment, preventing impairment of health and/or development, ensuring that children grow up in the provision of safe and effective care and taking action to enable all children to have the best life chances.

Safeguarding Policy Statement, Principles and Aims

Statement- Safeguarding is everybody's responsibility. Academykicks recognises that it has a moral and statutory responsibility to safeguard and promote the welfare of all children.

All coaching staff have a responsibility to provide a safe environment for children in which they can learn and coaches are well placed to observe outward signs of abuse, changes in behaviour and failure to develop, because they have daily contact with children.

Academykicks acknowledges its responsibilities to safeguard the welfare of every child and young person who has been entrusted to its care and is committed to working to provide a safe environment for all members.

A child or young person is anyone under the age of 18 engaging in any club football activity. We subscribe to The Football Association's (The FA) Safeguarding Children- Policy and Procedures and endorse and adopt the Policy Statement contained in that document.

2. The key principles of Grassroots Child Protection Policy are that:

- ❖ The child's welfare is, and must always be, the paramount consideration.
- ❖ All children and young people have a right to be protected from abuse regardless of their age, gender, disability, race, sexual orientation, faith or belief.
- ❖ All suspicions and allegations of abuse will be taken seriously and responded to swiftly and appropriately.
- ❖ Working in partnership with other organisations, children and young people and their parents/carers is essential. We acknowledge that every child or young person who plays or participates in football should be able to take part in an enjoyable and safe environment and be protected from poor practice and abuse.

Academykicks recognises that this is the responsibility of every adult involved in our club.

3. Academykicks has a role to play in safeguarding the welfare of all children and young people by protecting them from physical, sexual or emotional harm and from neglect or bullying.
4. We endorse and adopt The FA's Responsible Recruitment guidelines for recruiting volunteers and we will:
 - ❖ Specify what the role is and what tasks it involves.
 - ❖ Request identification documents.
 - ❖ As a minimum meet and chat with the applicant(s) and where possible interview people before appointing them.
 - ❖ Ask for and follow up with 2 references before appointing someone.
 - ❖ To have a Youth Welfare Officer appointed to adhere to this policy in full.

5. Whistle Blowing Policy

Any adult or young person with concerns about an adult in a position of trust with football can 'whistle blow' by contacting The FA Safeguarding Team on 0800 169 1863, by writing to the FA Case Manager at The Football Association, Wembley Stadium, PO Box 1966, London SW1P 9EQ, by emailing Safeguarding@TheFA.com or alternatively by going direct to the Police, Children's Social Care or NSPCC.

6. Academykicks has appointed a Youth Welfare Officer who is the first point of contact for all club members regarding concerns about the welfare of any child or young person. The Youth Welfare Officer will liaise directly with the County FA (CFA) Welfare Officer and will be familiar with the procedures for referring any concerns. They will also play a proactive role in increasing awareness of respect, poor practice and abuse amongst club members.
7. We acknowledge and endorse The FA's identification of bullying as a category of abuse. Bullying of any kind is not acceptable at our club. If bullying does occur, all players or parents/carers should be able to tell and know that incidents will be dealt with promptly. Incidents need to be reported to the clubs Youth Welfare Officer and in cases of serious bullying the CFA Welfare officer will be contacted.
8. Respect codes of conduct for Players, Parents/Spectators, Officials and Coaches have been implemented by the Football club. In order to validate these Respect codes of conduct the club has clear actions it will take regarding repeated or serious misconduct at club level and acknowledges the possibility of potential sanctions which may be implemented by the County FA in more serious circumstances.
9. Reporting your concerns about welfare of a child or young person; Safeguarding is everyone's responsibility if you are worried about a child it is important that you report your concerns- no action is not an option. If you are worried about a child, then you need to report your concerns to the Lead Safeguarding Officer.

If the issue is one of poor practice the Club Welfare Officer will either;

- ❖ Deal with the matter themselves or seek advice from the Lead Safeguarding Officer. If the concern is more serious- possible child abuse, where possible, contact the CFA Welfare Officer first. Then immediately contact the Police or Children's Social Care. If

the child needs immediate medical treatment take them to a hospital or call an ambulance and tell them this is a child protection concern. Let your Lead Welfare Officer know what action you have taken, they in turn will inform the CFA Welfare Officer. If at anytime you are not able to;

- ❖ Contact your Club Welfare Officer, or the matter is clearly serious then you can either;
- ❖ Contact your CFA Welfare Officer directly
- ❖ Contact The FA Safeguarding Team on 0800 169 1863 or safeguarding@TheFA.com
- ❖ Contact the Police or Children's Social Care
- ❖ Call the NSPCC 24-HOUR Helpline for advice on 0800 800 5000 or text 88858 or email help@nspcc.org.uk

Please note that all The FA Safeguarding Children Policy and Procedures are available via [Safeguarding - Rules & Regulations | The Football Association \(thefa.com\)](#)

POLICY REVIEW

Louise Broadhurst is responsible for reviewing the Safeguarding and Child Protection Policy and ensuring that it is compliant with current legislation and good practice. Also for ensuring that the list of key contacts and that related policies and procedures are up-to-date. The

First point of contact- Head Coach

Second point of contact- Louise Broadhurst- Youth Welfare Officer 07739343190 or Louise@academykicks.com

Third point of contact- Anna-Maria Konstantinides- County Welfare Officer safeguarding@worcetershirefa.com or 01905 827137 ext. 214