

Safeguarding Children Policy - [Maidenhead Boys and Girls Football Club]

1. Policy Statement

Maidenhead Boys and Girls Football Club recognises its responsibility to safeguard the welfare of every child and young person entrusted to our care. We are committed to providing a safe, positive environment where all members can enjoy football free from harm. A child or young person refers to anyone under the age of 18 involved in any club activity.

2. Key Principles

- The welfare of the child is always the highest priority.
- Every child has the right to be protected regardless of age, gender, disability, race, faith, belief or sexual orientation.
- All suspicions or allegations of abuse will be taken seriously and acted upon promptly.
- Partnership working with children, parents/carers and statutory organisations is essential.

3. Our Commitment to Safeguarding

Maidenhead Boys and Girls Football Club is committed to safeguarding children from physical, emotional and sexual harm, neglect and bullying. These responsibilities apply to everyone in the club, whether paid or voluntary, including coaches, helpers, match officials, club officials and medical personnel.

4. Safe & Responsible Recruitment

Maidenhead Boys and Girls Football Club will ensure all coaches/ managers have FA-accepted Enhanced DBS checks for all eligible roles and hold the necessary FA qualifications.

5. Whistleblowing

Maidenhead Boys and Girls Football Club supports The FA's Whistleblowing Policy. Anyone with concerns about an adult in a position of trust can report directly to the FA Safeguarding Team, Police, Children's Social Care, NSPCC, or the Club Welfare Officer. Reports will be treated seriously and confidentially.

6. Club Welfare Officer (CWO)

Maidenhead Boys and Girls Football Club appoints a trained Club Welfare Officer who is the first point of contact for safeguarding concerns, works with the County FA Welfare Officer, promotes safeguarding awareness and ensures correct reporting procedures are followed.

7. Bullying

Bullying is recognised as a form of abuse and is not tolerated at Maidenhead Boys and Girls Football Club. All incidents should be reported to the Club Welfare Officer, with serious cases escalated to the County FA Welfare Officer. Cyber bullying is taken seriously within the club however the Club does not have the ability to monitor Plyers online activity and therefore cannot be accountable or responsible for group chats involving children. Parents need to be accountable for what their child is doing online.

As a club, we **never** create, supervise or manage any social media groups or activity that include any Players or children. Where issues do occur or we receive a complaint of cyber bullying we will do our best to facilitate a resolution between children and parents.

Parents should be aware of the age restrictions in place on social media apps which are there to protect their child and the club strongly advises parents to abide by these restrictions.

8. Codes of Conduct

Maidenhead Boys and Girls Football Club ensures our players welfare, the club has a code of conduct in place for coaches and players. The club also expects considerate, polite and supportive behaviour from parents and supporters at all times in line with our Codes of Conduct. Clear actions are taken in cases of repeated or serious misconduct, and severe breaches may result in County FA sanctions.

9. Reporting Concerns

Everyone has a responsibility to report safeguarding concerns. Reports must be made to the Club Welfare Officers.

welfare@maidenheadbgfc.com

Jason Cookson 07976 448693

Sarah Shea 07796 074698

Kristina Florez 7515 896249

Serious concerns should be escalated immediately to Police or Children's Social Care.

If a child is in immediate danger, call emergency services on 999.

10. Further Advice

Additional safeguarding information can be obtained from The FA Safeguarding website, the County FA Welfare Officer, the FA Safeguarding Team or the NSPCC helpline.