



## **St Andrews Football Club Guidelines For Safeguarding Children's Welfare**

St Andrews Football Club has a duty of care towards the junior members of the club. The Club is committed to creating and preserving the safest possible environment for children to play football.

It is the duty of all Members, Club Officials, Team Managers and any other individuals - directly or indirectly involved with the junior element the club to be aware of and help prevent the abuse that children can suffer – be it neglect, physical, verbal, sexual or emotional abuse.

St Andrews Football Club accepts children's welfare is paramount, and all children, whatever their age, culture, disability, gender or religious belief, have the right to protection from abuse.

This document has been designed to illustrate what constitutes abuse of children, how to spot a possible or potential victim of abuse and who are the experts within this field.

### **1. Forms of Abuse**

- a) Sexual Abuse
- b) Physical Abuse
- c) Emotional Abuse
- d) Abuse by Neglect

### **2. Signs of Abuse**

#### **a) Sexual Abuse Indicators**

- i) Pain, itching, bruising or bleeding to genital area
- ii) Stomach pains
- iii) Discomfort when walking
- iv) Unexplained sources of money
- v) Inappropriate sexual drawings / language / behaviour.

#### **b) Physical Abuse Indicators**

- i) Aggressive or withdrawn
- ii) Fear of one person
- iii) Unexplained or untreated injuries
- iv) Injuries on unlikely or unusual parts of the body Cigarette burns, bites or belt marks, scalds
- v) Fear of parents being contacted, going home or receiving medical advice
- vi) Clinching when touched, Refusal to discuss injury
- vii) Covering arms or legs

#### **c) Emotional Abuse**

- i) Over Reaction to mistakes
- ii) Sudden speech disorders
- iii) Extremes of emotions
- iv) Self mutilation
- v) Poor personal hygiene

#### **d) Abuse by Neglect**

- i) Constantly hungry
- ii) Inappropriate clothing or dress
- iii) Constantly tired Lonely, no friends
- iv) Under weight
- v) No parental support or interest
- vi) Disheveled appearance

### **3. Actions of Adults Whilst Working with Junior Members of the Club**

It is difficult for all adults involved with working with young children to know how to deploy a duty of care. The following guidelines have been drawn up to illustrate the general boundaries of working with young people:

#### **You should always..**

Treat all players and children with respect and dignity befitting of their age, watch your language, tone of voice and where you put your body.

#### **You should never..**

- Engage in rough, physical or sexually provocative games including horseplay
- Allow or engage in inappropriate or intrusive touching of any kind
- Allow children to use inappropriate language unchallenged
- Make sexually suggestive comments to a child even in fun
- Let allegations a child make go unchallenged or unrecorded, always act
- Invade the privacy of children when they are changing, showering or going to the toilet

#### **You should avoid..**

- Doing things of a personal nature that children can do for themselves. E.g. help with changing
- Spending excessive amounts of time alone with children away from others
- Taking children alone on car journeys, however short
- Taking children to your home

Where these situations are unavoidable, first seek parental consent where possible. If unable to speak to the parents, always inform them of the circumstances as soon as practicable.

### **4. What to do if a Child Discloses Abuse**

As an adult, you have to understand that this may be the only time the child has built up courage to tell someone what has happened. You must;

- Stop what you are doing and respect the child's privacy
- Stay calm and re-assuring
- Listen to what they tell you, tell them that whatever the circumstances they are not to blame
- Do not react in a way that may add to the child's distress e.g. anger or shock
- Explain that you cannot promise to keep what the child tells you a secret, you may have to tell someone else
- Do not question the child in depth, do not ask leading questions, i.e. questions that need a "yes" or "no" answer
- Only ask questions to establish exactly what was done and who did it
- Tell the child that you are pleased they decided to tell someone and that they are absolutely right to do so
- Let the child know that you understand how difficult it is to talk about such experiences
- Inform the Team Manager (unless implicated)
- Contact the St Andrews Football Club Chairman immediately
- Do not contact parents until you have received advice
- Make an accurate record of the time and date and exactly what was said

### **5. Further Advice / Organisations Who Can Help**

- Greater Manchester Police Child Protection Unit. Contact 0161 872 5050
- Social Services will be listed in the telephone directory.
- ChildLine, a national charity operate a twenty four hour helpline - 0800 1111
- NSPCC, operate a twenty four hour child protection helpline - 0800 800 500
- NSPCC also operate a Textphone service - 0800 056 0566
- The FA has joined forces with NSPCC to operate a helpline - 0800 800 5000
- BARNARDOS, operate a helpline - 0208 550 8822
- Samaritans, 24 hour helpline - 0345 909090 or Textline - 08457 909192

These guidelines have been primarily produced as a steer where children are involved, however in some instances abuse may also involve adults as well as children. Help may be obtained in cases of domestic violence from:

- Women's Aid National Helpline - 0345 023468
- Rape Crisis Centre offers assistance in cases of rape or sexual abuse - 0207 837 1600