



## Safeguarding Children Policy

1. Longridge Town Juniors Football Club acknowledges its responsibility 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, engaged in any club football activity. We fully subscribe to The Football Association's Safeguarding Children Policy and Procedures and endorse and adopt the Policy Statement contained in that document.

2. The key principles of The Safeguarding Children Policy are that;

a. The child's welfare is, and must always be, the paramount consideration.

b. All children and young people have a right to be protected from abuse regardless of their age, gender, disability, culture, language, racial origin, religious beliefs or sexual orientation.

c. All suspicions and allegations of abuse will be taken seriously and responded to swiftly and appropriately.

d. Working in partnership with other organisations, children and young people and their parents or carers is essential.

e. 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 must be protected from poor practice and/or abuse.

3. Longridge Town Juniors Football Club recognises that this is the responsibility of every adult involved in our club to safeguard the welfare of all participants.

Longridge Town Juniors Football Club 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. It is noted and accepted that The Football Association's Safeguarding Children Regulation (See the FA Handbook) applies to everyone in football whether in a paid or voluntary capacity. This includes those who are volunteers, match officials, helpers on club tours, football coaches, club officials or medical staff.

4. Longridge Town Juniors Football Club endorse and adopt The FA's Safeguarding Children Guidelines for Recruiting Volunteers and will:

- a. Provide a role profile for any positions held within the Club
- b. Request the completion of a Volunteer Application Form
- c. Request identification documents
- d. Meet and chat with the applicant(s) and conduct interviews before appointing
- e. Request and follow up with two references before appointing
- f. Require a FA DRB Enhanced Disclosure to be successfully undertaken before commencing work with any group of children within the Club.

Longridge Town Juniors Football Club aims to prevent people with a history of relevant and significant offending from having contact with children or young people and the opportunity to influence policies or practice with children or young people. This is to prevent direct sexual or physical harm to children and to minimise the risk of 'grooming' within football.

5. Safeguarding children is everyone's responsibility. If any member has a concern about a child it is important that these concerns are reported.

a. If you are worried about a child then you need to report your concerns to the Club Welfare Officer.

b. If the issue is one of poor practice they will either deal with the matter themselves or will seek further advice from the Lancashire FA Child Welfare Officer.

c. If the concern is more serious - possible child abuse - where possible contact the Lancashire FA Child Welfare Officer first, then immediately contact the Police or Children's Services.

d. 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 the Club Welfare Officer know what action you have taken.

e. If at any time you are not able to contact the Club Welfare Officer or the matter is serious then you can either:

Contact the County FA Welfare Officer directly  
or Call The FA/NSPCC 24 hour Helpline for advice on 0808 800 5000  
or Contact the Police or Children's Services

6. Longridge Town Juniors Football Club acknowledges and endorses 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, parents or guardians should feel free to speak out and know that incidents will be dealt with promptly.

Incidents need to be reported to the Club Welfare Officer, a member of the Club Committee, or in cases of serious bullying contact the Lancashire FA Child Welfare Officer.

7. Longridge Town Juniors Football Club has implemented Codes of Conduct for Players, Parents or Spectators, Officials and Coaches. All officials, players and parents are required to sign a copy of the Clubs Codes of Conduct each season. The club has clear procedures to deal with any misconduct at club level and acknowledges the possibility of potential further sanctions, which may be implemented by Leagues or the Lancashire FA in more serious circumstances

8. Further advice on Safeguarding Children can be obtained from:

The Club Child Welfare Officer, Dave Ellis, 07832115831 or via email on david.ellis@outlook.com

The Lancashire Football Association's Child Welfare Officer, Neil Yates, 01772 624000 or via email on Neil.Yates@lancashirefa.com

The Football Association/NSPCC Child Protection 24-hour helpline 0808 800 5000.