Safeguarding Children

Policy and procedures

Stokenchurch Juniors Football Club | September 2026

Our safeguarding promise

A club where every child can enjoy football, feel safe, be included and be protected from poor practice and abuse.

Child welfare comes first The welfare of the child must always be the paramount consideration.	**Protection for every child** All children and young people have a right to protection; regardless of age, gender, sexual orientation, race, nationality, ethnic origin, religion or belief, ability or disability.
Concerns are acted on All suspicions and allegations will be taken seriously and responded to swiftly and appropriately.	**Partnership is essential** Working with other organisations, children and young people, and parents or carers is essential.

1 Policy commitment

Stokenchurch Juniors Football Club acknowledges its responsibility to safeguard the welfare of every child and young person and is committed to providing a safe environment for all. The club recognises a child as anyone under the age of 18 and subscribes to The Football Association's Safeguarding Children Policy and Procedures.

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. This is the responsibility of every adult involved in the club.

The club has a role in protecting children and young people from physical, sexual or emotional harm, neglect and bullying. The Football Association's Safeguarding Children Regulations apply to everyone in football, whether paid or voluntary, including coaches, managers, volunteers, match officials, tour helpers, medical staff and other club officials or helpers.

2 Safer recruitment

The club endorses and adopts The Football Association's Safer Recruitment guidance. The club will:

- Specify the role and the tasks it involves.
- Request identification documents.
- As a minimum, meet and talk with applicants and, where possible, interview people before appointment.
- Where eligible, require a Football Association accepted enhanced Disclosure and Barring Service check with barred list information, in line with current safeguarding policy and regulations.

If concerns arise about the appropriateness of someone already involved, or someone seeking to join the club, guidance will be sought from the County Football Association. The Football Association will consider the relevance and significance of

information obtained through the Disclosure and Barring Service process. Suitability decisions will be made in accordance with legislation and in the best interests of children and young people.

3 Speak up and whistleblowing

The club supports The Football Association's Whistle Blowing Policy. Any adult or young person with concerns about an adult in a position of trust within football can raise those concerns through any of the routes below. The club encourages everyone to know about and use the policy when necessary.

The Football Association safeguarding team Telephone: 0800 169 1863 Email: Safeguarding@TheFA.com	**The Football Association case manager** The Football Association Wembley Stadium, Post Office Box 1966 London SW1P 9EQ
Statutory services Contact the Police or Children's Social Care.	**National Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children** 24-hour helpline: 0808 800 5000 Text: 88858 Email: help@nspcc.org.uk

4 Club Welfare Officer

The club has appointed a Club Welfare Officer, with welfare support, in line with The Football Association role profile. The post holders have completed the Safeguarding Children and Welfare Officers Workshop and will undertake ongoing Welfare Officer training provided by The Football Association and/or the County Football Association.

- The Club Welfare Officer is the first point of contact for club members with concerns about the welfare of a child or young person.
- The Club Welfare Officer liaises directly with the County Football Association Designated Safeguarding Officer and follows the procedures for referring concerns.
- The Club Welfare Officer takes a proactive role in raising awareness of respect, poor practice and abuse among club members.

5 Bullying and conduct

The club acknowledges and endorses The Football Association's identification of bullying as a category of abuse. Bullying of any kind is not acceptable. Players and parents or carers must be able to access the anti-bullying policy and know that incidents will be dealt with appropriately. Incidents must be reported to the Club Welfare Officer. In serious cases, the County Football Association Designated Safeguarding Officer may be contacted.

Codes of conduct for Players, Parents and Spectators, Officials and Coaches, as required by the Child Protection in Sport Unit Safeguarding Standards, have been implemented. The club has clear actions for repeated or serious misconduct at club level and recognises that the County Football Association may apply sanctions in more serious circumstances.

6 What to do if you are worried about a child

Safeguarding is everyone's responsibility and inaction is not an option. Concerns should be reported to the Club Welfare Officer and handled as follows:

1	**Report.** Tell a Club Welfare Officer. Do not ignore the concern.
2	**Assess and advise.** The Club Welfare Officer manages poor practice and, where necessary, seeks advice from the County Football Association Designated Safeguarding Officer.
3	**Refer.** More serious concerns are referred to the County Football Association Designated Safeguarding Officer. In an emergency, contact the Police or Children's Social Care.
4	**Protect.** If immediate medical treatment is needed, take the child to hospital or call an ambulance and state that it is a child protection concern.
5	**Record.** The Club Welfare Officer records the action taken and keeps the County Football Association Designated Safeguarding Officer informed.

If the Club Welfare Officer is unavailable, or the matter is clearly serious

Contact the County Football Association Designated Safeguarding Officer directly; contact The Football Association safeguarding team on 0800 169 1863 or Safeguarding@TheFA.com; contact the Police or Children's Social Care; and/or call the National Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children 24-hour helpline on 0808 800 5000, text 88858, or email help@nspcc.org.uk.

7 Accountability and club contacts

Stokenchurch Juniors Football Club Committee understands and accepts its collective responsibility to adhere to its safeguarding children policy and procedures. The committee commits to ensuring members are aware of and have access to club policies.

Role	Name
Chairperson	Adam Cooper
Secretary	Jenny Ferguson
Club Welfare Officer	Kirsty Cooper
Assistant Club Welfare Officers	Charlene Hughes and Lucy Ashby
Treasurer	Michelle Howe