



Godmanchester Town FC Safeguarding Children Policy

Policy Statement

Godmanchester Town FC is committed to providing a safe and positive environment for all children and young people. We believe that the welfare of every child is paramount, regardless of age, ability, gender, race, religion, sexual orientation, or socio-economic background. We adopt [The FA's Safeguarding Children Policy](#) and endorse the principles of the [FA Respect campaign](#). We recognise our responsibility to protect children from abuse, poor practice, and discrimination and to ensure they can enjoy football in a fun and inclusive setting.

Aims & Objectives

The purpose of this policy is to:

- Protect children and young people who are members of our club.
- Ensure all volunteers, coaches, and officials understand their safeguarding and welfare responsibilities.
- Provide clear guidance on recognising and responding to safeguarding concerns.
- Implement safer recruitment practices to prevent unsuitable people from working with children.
- Promote a culture of openness, where concerns can be raised without fear of reprisal.

Roles & Responsibilities

Safeguarding is everyone's responsibility within the club. Key roles include:

Club Welfare Officer:

- First point of contact for safeguarding concerns.
- Maintain safeguarding records.
- Liaise with the County FA Designated Safeguarding Officer (DSO).

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Committee or The Board:

- Ensure safeguarding is embedded in all club decisions and activities.
- Approve and review safeguarding policies annually.

Managers/Coaches & Volunteers:

- Complete FA safeguarding training and DBS checks.
- Follow the Code of Conduct and promote safe, inclusive practice.

Parents/Carers:

- Support the club's safeguarding approach.
- Report concerns promptly.

Players:

- Respect others and speak up if they feel unsafe.

Safer Recruitment & Training

To safeguard children effectively, the club commits to safer recruitment by:

- Requiring DBS Enhanced Disclosure checks for all eligible roles and renew as required.
- Verifying identity and references of volunteers.
- Ensuring all coaches complete FA Safeguarding Children training and renew as required.
- Providing an induction for new volunteers covering safeguarding responsibilities.

Safe Environment

The club will:

- Maintain appropriate adult-to-child ratios at all sessions.
- Carry out risk assessments for pitches, facilities, equipment and events.
- Ensure qualified first aiders are present at activities.
- Implement safe changing arrangements and transport guidance.
- Promote inclusion and adapt activities for children with additional needs.

Code of Conduct & Behaviour Standards

The club requires all players, parents, coaches, and officials to adhere to the Codes of Conduct. Behaviour expected includes:

- Respecting referees, opponents, and teammates.
- Using positive language and encouragement.
- Never engaging in bullying, abuse, or discrimination.
- Placing the welfare of children above the outcome of matches.

Recognising Abuse & Poor Practice

All club members must be aware of the main types of abuse:

- Physical abuse (e.g., hitting, shaking).
- Emotional abuse (e.g., constant criticism, unrealistic pressure).
- Sexual abuse (e.g., inappropriate touching, exploitation).
- Neglect (e.g., failure to meet basic needs).

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- Bullying (including online abuse).

Poor practice includes behaviours that fall short of abuse but may compromise welfare, such as overtraining, favouritism, or ignoring medical advice.

For further information please refer to www.nspcc.org.uk or www.thefa.com

Responding to Concerns

All concerns must be taken seriously and reported immediately to the Welfare Officer.

Procedure:

1. Listen and reassure the child/adult, do not promise confidentiality.
2. Record the facts using the Club's Incident Report Form (all managers will have a template of this form).
3. Report to the Club Welfare Officer via safeguarding@godmanchestertownfc.com
4. Welfare Officer consults with the County FA DSO if appropriate.
5. If a child is at immediate risk, contact the police (999) or children's social care.

Concerns can also be reported directly to the NSPCC (0808 800 5000) or The FA Safeguarding Team.

Confidentiality & Information Sharing

Safeguarding information must be handled sensitively and only shared with those who need to know. The club follows GDPR principles and ensures records are stored securely. The safety of the child always overrides confidentiality.

Monitoring & Review

The Committee and Welfare Officer will:

- Review this policy annually or following a safeguarding incident.
- Ensure all members are aware of updates.
- Monitor implementation through spot checks, feedback, and annual audits.

[ENDS]

DRAFTED: 09/09/2025
REVIEW NEEDED: 09/09/2026