

Child Policy
Club Child Protection Policy

Mile Oak Wanderers Football Club Child Protection Policy

The introduction of this Child Protection Policy should be seen as a clear signal by Mile Oak Wanderers FC that it is determined to ensure all necessary steps are taken to protect from harm, those children and young people who participate in football at our club. The policy establishes the club's position, role and responsibilities and clarifies what is expected of other individuals involved in football. It very clearly highlights the importance placed by Mile Oak Wanderers FC on the protection of children and young people. Every child and young person who plays football should be able to participate in an enjoyable and safe environment and be protected from abuse. This is the responsibility of every adult involved in football. We recognise, however, that child abuse is also a very emotive and difficult subject. It is important to understand the feelings involved but not to allow them to interfere with our judgement about any action to be taken. The club recognises its responsibility to safeguard the welfare of all children and young people by protecting them from physical, sexual or emotional harm and from neglect or bullying. It is determined to meet its obligation to ensure that those clubs and organisations providing football opportunities for children and young people do so, to the highest possible standard of care.

The aims of the Mile Oak Wanderers FC Child Protection Policy are:

- To develop a positive and pro-active position in order to best protect all children and young people who play football, enabling them to participate in an enjoyable and safe environment.
- To demonstrate best practice in the area of child protection.
- To promote ethics and high standards throughout our football club.

The key principles underpinning this Policy are that:

- The child's welfare is, and must always be, the paramount consideration.
- 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 identity.
- All suspicions and allegations of abuse will be taken seriously and responded to swiftly and appropriately.

CONCLUSION

Mile Oak Wanderers Football Club, through confirming this Policy Document, has indicated its determination to ensure that children and young people can participate in all forms of football activity and do so, with their safety being of paramount importance. It is

essential that this document is representative of a process of continual improvement in the area of child protection within football. It is for all adults engaged in football activities to promote good practice and procedures, whilst being ever vigilant and aware of their responsibilities towards the children and young people in their care.

ADULTS 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.

ADULTS SHOULD NEVER:

- Engage in rough, physical or sexually provocative
- 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

ADULTS 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.

WHAT TO LOOK FOR IN CHILDREN

- Pain, itching, bruising or bleeding to genital area
- Stomach pains
- Discomfort when walking
- Unexplained sources of money
- Inappropriate sexual drawings / language / behaviour
- Aggressive, withdrawn or fear of one person
- Unexplained or untreated injuries
- Injuries on unlikely or unusual parts of the body
- Cigarette burns, bites or belt marks, scalds
- Fear of parents being contacted, going home or receiving medical advice
- Flinching when touched
- Refusal to discuss injury

- Covering arms or legs
- Poor personal hygiene
- Constantly hungry
- Inappropriate clothing or dress
- Constantly tired
- Lonely, no friends
- Under weight
- No parental support or interest
- Dishevelled appearance
- Over Reaction to mistakes
- Sudden speech disorders
- Extremes of emotions
- Self mutilation

There may not be any signs you may just feel that something is wrong. If you are worried, it is not your responsibility to decide if it is abuse, but **IT IS YOUR RESPONSIBILITY TO ACT ON YOUR CONCERNS AND DO SOMETHING ABOUT IT.**

WHAT TO DO IF A CHILD DISCLOSES ABUSE

- Understand that this may be the only time the child has built up courage to tell someone what has happened
- 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 coach (unless implicated)
- **Contact the Mile Oak Wanderers Football Safeguarding Officer *without delay* – Donna Cox 07921 33895 – Club.Welfare.Mow@outlook.com**
- Do not contact parents until you have received advice
- Make an accurate record of the time and date and exactly what was said

Other Useful Contacts:

Childline: 0800 1111

Barnardos: 0181 550 8822

NSPCC: 0800 800 500