

# WOODFOOD JUNIOR FOOTBALL CLUB

## SAFEGUARDING AND WELFARE POLICY



### Safeguarding Statement

Woodford Junior Football Club acknowledges its responsibility to safeguard the welfare of every child and young person directly connected with the league and is committed to providing a safe environment for all. We recognise that a child is anyone under the age of 18 and, therefore, we have a responsibility to ensure appropriate safeguards are in place. As such we subscribe to The Football Association's (The FA) Safeguarding Children Policy and Procedures.

We endorse and adopt the following key safeguarding principles:

- The child's welfare is, and must always be, the paramount consideration for all activities organized by the club;
- All children and young people have a right to be protected from abuse regardless of their; age, gender, gender reassignment, sexual orientation, marital status or civil partnership, race, nationality, ethnic origin, colour, religion or belief, ability or disability, pregnancy and maternity;
- All suspicions and allegations of abuse will be taken seriously and responded to swiftly and appropriately; and
- Working in partnership with other organisations, children and young people and their parents/carers is essential. 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 be protected from poor practice and abuse.

Woodford Junior 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. Woodford Junior Football Club recognises that this is the responsibility of every adult involved in our teams.

It is noted and accepted that The FA's Safeguarding Children Regulations apply to everyone in football whether in a paid or voluntary capacity, including coaches/managers, volunteers, match officials, helpers on club tours, or medical staff or other club officials/helpers.

Further information can be found here: [www.thefa.com/football-rules-governance/safeguarding/section-11-the-complete-downloads-directory](http://www.thefa.com/football-rules-governance/safeguarding/section-11-the-complete-downloads-directory)

### Safer Recruitment

We endorse and adopt the FA's Safer Recruitment of Volunteers guidelines and we will:

- Create role profiles, detailing the main tasks and responsibilities
- Advertise the volunteering opportunities with reference to our safeguarding policy
- Ask volunteers to apply and share official photo documentation
- Interview the volunteer, and establish their understanding of safeguarding and welfare of children
- Request two references from individuals who are not related to the applicant
- Establish if the role requires a DBS check and undertake it (all coaches and managers are required to hold an-date FA accepted DBS enhanced with barred list check)
- Consider if the volunteer is suitable for the role
- Ensure new volunteers complete safeguarding training and know how to implement safeguarding policies

If there are concerns regarding the appropriateness of an individual who is already involved with, or who has approached us to become part of Woodford Junior Football Club, guidance will be sought from the County Football Association (CFA). It is noted and accepted that The FA will consider the relevance and significance of the information obtained via the DBS process and that all suitability decisions will be made in accordance with legislation and in the best interests of children and young people.

It is accepted that The FA aims to prevent people with a history of relevant and significant offending from having contact with children and 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 minimize the risk of 'grooming' within football.

Further information can be found here: [www.thefa.com/-/media/cfa/isleofmanfa/files/fa-guide-to-recruitment-and-](http://www.thefa.com/-/media/cfa/isleofmanfa/files/fa-guide-to-recruitment-and-)

## Whistle Blowing

Woodford Junior Football Club supports The FA's Whistle Blowing policy. Any adult or young person with concerns about an adult in a position of trust within football can 'whistle blow' by contacting The FA Safeguarding Team on **0800 169 1863**, by writing to The FA Case Manager at The Football Association, Wembley Stadium, PO Box 1966, London SW1P 9EQ, by emailing [Safeguarding@TheFA.com](mailto:Safeguarding@TheFA.com) or alternatively by going direct to the Police, Children's Social Care, the Cheshire West Local Authority Designated Officer at [www.livewell.cheshirewestandchester.gov.uk/Categories/5581](http://www.livewell.cheshirewestandchester.gov.uk/Categories/5581) or the NSPCC.

Woodford Junior Football Club encourages everyone to know about The FA's Whistle Blowing Policy and to utilise it if necessary.

Further information can be found here: [www.thefa.com/football-rules-governance/safeguarding/section-2-reporting-concerns](http://www.thefa.com/football-rules-governance/safeguarding/section-2-reporting-concerns)

## Bullying

We acknowledge and endorse The FA's identification of bullying as a category of abuse. Bullying of any kind is not acceptable. If bullying does occur, all players or parents/carers should be able to access the club's anti-bullying policy and know that incidents will be dealt with appropriately.

## How concerns about children and young people will be handled

In this club, safeguarding is everyone's responsibility, and we know that inaction is not an option. Our teams are required to ensure their safeguarding policy and procedures are shared with their members and actively promoted.

If anyone is worried about a child, it is important that they report their concerns to the **Club Welfare Officer**, who will deal with reported concerns as follows:

- i. If the issue is one of poor practice the club's Welfare Officer will deal with the matter themselves and, where necessary, seek advice from the **County FA's Designated Safeguarding Officer (CFA DSO)**.
- ii. If the concern is more serious – for example, a concern about possible child abuse, the **CWO** must contact the **CFA DSO**. If they are not available immediately, then either the **Police** or **Children's Social Care** must be contacted.
- iii. If the child needs immediate medical treatment then they must be taken to a hospital. If necessary, an ambulance should be called and advised that this is a child protection concern.
- iv. The **Club Welfare Officer** will keep records of the actions taken and keep the **CFA DSO** Informed.

If at any time a club member is not able to contact their **CWO**, or the matter is clearly serious then they can either:

- Contact the **CFA Designated Safeguarding Officer** directly
- Contact **The FA's Safeguarding Team** on **0800 169 1863** or [Safeguarding@TheFA.com](mailto:Safeguarding@TheFA.com)
- Contact the **Police** or **Children's Social Care**
- Call the **NSPCC 24-hour Helpline** for advice on **0808 800 5000** or text **88858** or email [help@nspcc.org.uk](mailto:help@nspcc.org.uk)

If the **CWO** was not available then the club members are required to let them know what action they have taken, they in turn must inform the **CFA DSO**.

## Club Welfare Officer

Woodford Junior Football Club has appointed a **Club Welfare Officer (CWO)** in line with The FA's role profile who has completed the Safeguarding Children and Welfare Officers Workshop by the **CWO**. The postholder will be involved with ongoing Welfare Officer training provided by The FA and/or CFA.

The **CWO** is the first point of contact for all club members regarding concerns about the welfare of any child or young person.

The **CWO** will liaise directly with the **CFA Designated Safeguarding office** and will be familiar with the procedures to refer any concerns.

The **CWO** will also play a proactive role in increasing awareness of respect, poor practice and abuse amongst club members.

Youth League Committee understands and accepts our collective responsibility to adhere to and promote The FAs safeguarding Children Policy and procedures with our registered clubs.

The named CWO for Woodford Junior Football Club is **Katie Dears** who can be contacted by emailing: [welfare@woodfordjfc.co.uk](mailto:welfare@woodfordjfc.co.uk)

**Signed**

Role	Name	Signature	Date
<b>Chairperson</b>	Mark Cooper		8-3-2026
<b>Secretary</b>	Matty Dears		8-3-2026
<b>Club Welfare Officer</b>	Katie Dears		8-3-2026

The FA's Safeguarding Children Policy and Procedures (including the anti-bullying policy) are available here: [www.thefa.com/football-rules-governance/safeguarding/section-11-the-complete-downloads-directory](http://www.thefa.com/football-rules-governance/safeguarding/section-11-the-complete-downloads-directory)

