



Godalming Town Child Protection Policy

Godalming Town Football Club (GTFC) acknowledges its responsibility to safeguard the welfare of every child and young person who has 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 football activity. We subscribe to the Football Association's Child Protection and Best Practice Policy (the Policy) and processes and endorse and adopt the policy statement contained in that document.

The key principles of the Policy are:

1. The child's welfare is, and must always be, the paramount consideration.
2. 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.
3. All suspicions and allegations of abuse will be taken seriously and responded to swiftly and in an appropriate manner.
4. Working in partnership with other organisations, children and young people and their parents/guardians or carers is essential.

GTFC acknowledges 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 GTFC recognise this is the responsibility of every adult involved with the club.

GTFC has a role to play in safeguarding the welfare of all children and young people by protecting them from physical, sexual and emotional harm and from neglect or bullying. It is noted and accepted that under the Policy this applies to all those involved in football and the club whether paid or acting in a voluntary capacity and includes but is not limited to: club members, club officials, club volunteers, managers and coaches, match officials and medical staff

In line with the FA affiliation requirements GTFC has an appointed Child Welfare Officer (CWO). The CWO is responsible for promoting best practice throughout the club and should be the first point of contact for any individual wishing to raise a concern. An e-mail address for the CWO can be found in the contacts section of the GTFC website (www.godalmingtownfc.co.uk).

Prior to appointment of any individual who will have direct access to children or young people as a result of their role in the club and in accordance with the Policy GTFC will require the following:

1. A clear description of the roles and responsibility of the position
1. Request identification documents
2. Meet with, and ideally interview the applicant prior to appointment
3. Request two independent references
4. Require a full DBS check in line with current FA guidelines

In the event that these criteria are not to the satisfaction of the CWO the individual in question will not be appointed to the post.