



Safeguarding Policy

Ballyclare Comrades Boy's Academy FC

Child Welfare Mission Statement

"It is the policy of Ballyclare Comrades Boy's Academy FC to safeguard the welfare of all children and young people whom we come into contact. We endeavor to provide an environment which values and protects in all aspects and at every level of football in Northern Ireland, regardless of their age, gender, disability, culture, language, racial origin, religious beliefs or sexual orientation. It is the policy and commitment of Ballyclare Comrades Boy's Academy FC to protect children and young people involved in football from inappropriate behaviour and all types of abuse."

The Club has a duty to safeguard children/young people from inappropriate behaviour/abuse within our sport. We also have a role in recognising and responding to concerns that a child/young person may be being harmed within another setting, such as the family home.

Recognising Abuse

Good child protection practice ensures that staff/volunteers know how to recognise child abuse. It is important to note that some children / young people are more vulnerable to abuse because of the circumstances of their life; this group would include the following:

- Disabled children/young people;
- Children/young people in the criminal justice system;
- Children/young people living with domestic violence
- Children/young people who are carers.

All staff/volunteers should be aware that essentially, 'child abuse' occurs when the behaviour of someone in a position of greater power than a child/young person causes significant harm. At times harm caused cannot be easily categorized, but it is recognized that there are four broad definitions of abuse.

Physical: the deliberate physical injury to a child/young person or the willful or neglectful failure to prevent physical injury or suffering

Emotional: where children/young people are persistently or severely emotionally neglected or rejected for example, by not being given enough love or attention, made to feel worthless, or being intimidated by threats or taunts

Sexual: where children/young people are encouraged or forced to observe or participate in any form of sexual activity

Neglect: where children's/young people's physical and/or psychological needs are persistently or severely neglected or the failure to protect a child/young person from exposure to any kind of danger

Bullying: although bullying is not defined as abuse, in its more extreme form it would be regarded as a form of abuse

Background Checks and Vetting

Volunteers involved with the Club are required to complete an Access Ni Check, if appropriate for their role, on appointment and thereafter every three years. This check will be completed through the governing body of the Irish Football Association. This and the reporting of concerns about the welfare of children is a requirement on the Club and the individuals involved with it of the Safeguarding Vulnerable Groups (Northern Ireland) Order 2007 and the Northern Ireland Children's Order 1995.

Failure to complete this check will bar individuals from volunteering with the Club. Individuals are duty bound to inform the club of any new convictions between these checks or any allegations made against them of alleged inappropriate behaviour by them towards children and young people.

Reporting

If, whilst acting as a volunteer for Ballyclare Comrades Boy's Academy FC, if a child or young person tells you that they have felt uncomfortable at a match or training or share a concern with you, or you feel uncomfortable about something you have seen or heard yourself you have a duty to pass to act on this information or your concerns. In all cases use the Club Safeguarding/Incident Report Form, included in this document and inform the Club Child Protection Officer directly as soon as possible.

Actions and Procedures

What to do if a child makes an allegation that they have been abused?

- Remain outwardly calm and reassuring to the child
- If possible, secure privacy for your conversation with the child (along with another adult if possible)
- Be clear immediately that you cannot keep this conversation a secret
- Listen, do not ask questions. Soon afterwards make factual, detailed notes.
- Inform the Child Welfare Officer who will decide how to pass this information on to the relevant authorities (Social Service Gateway Teams or PSNI)

What to do if someone voices concern to you about a child being abused now?

- Remain calm and listen sympathetically
- Acknowledge the difficulty of talking about such concerns
- Be clear immediately that you must pass on this information to the Child Protection Officer
- Complete the Club Safeguarding/Incident report form
- Pass this as promptly as possible to the Child Protection Officer

What to do if the behaviour or attitude of someone towards a child causes you concern?

- Write a clear description of what you saw/heard
- Inform the Child Protection Officer as quickly as possible, giving both the individual's and child's details.
- If it is the behaviour of a fellow Boy's Academy coach or volunteer that causes you concern, challenge the person's behaviour if appropriate, make a written record and pass on to the Child Protection Officer
- Any allegations of improper conduct or behaviour towards a child by a club coach/volunteer will be dealt with the by the Boy's Academy Committee on a case by case basis
- If the child needs urgent treatment or is in danger, ring the police immediately

Contact details for the Club Child Protection Officer:

Name: Malcolm Brown

Email Address: malcolm.548brown@btinternet.com

Contact Telephone Number: 07740251522