



Child Protection Policy

Deanshanger Colts Football Club fully recognises its responsibilities for child protection.

Our policy applies to all managers, coaches, committee members and volunteers working within the club. There are four main elements to our policy.

- Ensuring we practice safe recruitment in checking the suitability of managers, coaches and volunteers to work with children.
- Developing and then implementing procedures for identifying and reporting cases, or suspected cases, of abuse.
- Supporting players who have been abused in accordance with his/her agreed child protection plan.
- Establishing a safe environment in which the children can learn and develop their footballing skills and enjoy the game.

We recognise that because the regular contact the managers, coaches etc have with the children they are well placed to observe the outward signs of abuse. The Club will therefore,

- Establish and maintain an environment where children feel secure, are encouraged to talk and are listened to.
- Ensure child and parents that there are persons at the club whom they can approach if they are worried

The club will follow the procedures as detailed below,

- Ensure we have a designated person, independent of the club, who has received the appropriate training to hold the position of Child Protection Officer
- Ensure safe recruitment practices are always followed
- Ensure every manager, coach, volunteer etc knows the name of the child protection officer
- Ensure that all parents know the club's child protection officer and how to contact them.
- Ensure that all parents have an understanding of the responsibility placed on the Football Club for child protection by setting out its obligations in the policy
- Develop and then follow procedures where an allegation is made against a manager, coach, volunteer, etc.

Deanshanger Colts Football Club place the utmost importance on the issue of child protection. We believe that all children have the right to participate in their sport in a safe and enjoyable environment where they are protected from any form of abuse. The club fully supports the FA's declared 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.

The club has a designated Welfare Officer and follows the Child Protection Policy of the National Football Association.