



SAFEGUARDING CHILDREN POLICY

Limehouse Girls Football Club acknowledges that it is the responsibility of the Club and every adult involved in our club, to safeguard the welfare of every child and young person who has been entrusted to its care. Furthermore we are committed to working to provide a safe environment for all members. We subscribe to The Football Association's Safeguarding Children Policy and Procedures and endorse and adopt the Policy Statement contained in that document.

1. **The key principles of The Safeguarding Children Policy are that:-**
 - a. The child's welfare is, and must always be, the paramount consideration
 - b. 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
 - c. All suspicions and allegations of abuse will be taken seriously and responded to swiftly and appropriately
 - d. Working in partnership with other organisations, children and young people and their parents or carers is essential.
 - e. 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.

2. **We endorse and adopt The FA's Safeguarding Children Guidelines for Recruiting Volunteers and will:**
 - a. Develop a role profile
 - b. Request identification documents
 - c. Meet and talk with volunteers before involving them in the club.
 - d. Request and follow up with references before appointing volunteers.
 - e. Require an FA CRB Unit Enhanced Disclosure where appropriate. All current Limehouse Girls Football Club coaches are CRB checked. If there are concerns regarding the appropriateness of an individual who is already involved or who has approached us to become part of Limehouse Girls Football Club, guidance will be sought from The Football Association. It is noted and accepted that The FA will consider the relevance and significance of the information obtained via The FA CRB Unit Enhanced Disclosure and that all decisions will be made in the best interests of children and young people.
 - f. It is accepted that The FA aims to prevent people with a history of relevant and significant offending from having contact with children or young people and the opportunity
 - g. to influence policies or practice with children or young people. This is to prevent direct sexual or physical harm to children and to minimise the risk of 'grooming' within football.



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3. **Limehouse Girls Football Club supports The FA's Whistle Blowing Policy.** Any adult or young person with concerns about a colleague can 'whistle blow' by contacting The FA Child Protection Manager on 0207 745 4912, by writing to The FA Case Manager at The Football Association, 25 Soho Square, London, W1D 4FA or by going directly to the Police, Social Services or the NSPCC.
4. **Bullying of any kind is not acceptable at our Club.** If bullying does occur, all players, parents or guardians should be able to tell and know that incidents will be dealt with promptly. Incidents need to be reported to the CWO, a member of the committee, or in cases of serious bullying contact the CFA CPO.
5. **Codes of Conduct for Players, Parents or Spectators, Officials and Coaches have been implemented by Limehouse Girls Football Club and must be agreed to by girls and parents if they wish to participate in the clubs activities.** . These codes are designed to ensure that the girls enjoy playing football. If these codes are not adhered to the club will take action.
6. **The Club has a Child Welfare Officer (CWO).** All girls and parents will be made aware of who the CWO is at the start of each season. The CWO is the first point of contact for all club members and parents or guardians regarding concerns for the welfare of any girl
7. **Further advice on Safeguarding Children matters can be obtained from the London FA welfare Officer.**
8. **Parents – what this means for you:**
 - a. The Club has a Child Welfare Officer who has been trained by the FA and should be the first port of call for any Child Welfare issues.
 - b. All our full time coaches are CRB checked. If we have any part time coaches or parent volunteers they are not usually CRB checked but are under the supervision of our full time coaches or child welfare officer.
 - c. The club assists parents with transport to away games by putting them in touch with other parents. Parents must use their own judgment as to whether they are happy to place their child in the care of another parent. If the club organises group transport then the CWO or one of the full time coaches will travel with the girls along with one other volunteer adult. At away games we always have at least two adult volunteers present or one coach and one adult volunteer.
 - d. At training, girls of primary school age will not be allowed to leave unless collected, girls of secondary school age will be allowed to leave on their own.