

**FOOTBALL FACTORY – SAFEGUARDING POLICY**

**Our Commitment**

Football Factory is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of all children, young people and vulnerable adults who attend our facilities. We strive to create a safe, positive, and inclusive environment where all participants can enjoy football free from harm, discrimination, or abuse.

**Scope**

This policy applies to:

* All staff and volunteers
* Coaches, assistants, referees
* Parents, guardians, and spectators
* All children and vulnerable adults participating in activities

**Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL)**

Our appointed Safeguarding Lead is responsible for ensuring this policy is implemented and reviewed.

**Name:** Ainsley Cooper  
**Role:** Designated Safeguarding Lead  
**Email:** ainsley@footballfactorymidlands.com  
**Phone:** 07585117855

All safeguarding concerns must be reported to the DSL immediately.

**Key Principles**

We follow the safeguarding guidance set out by the **FA**, **NSPCC**, and **Working Together to Safeguard Children (2018)**.

* **Welfare of the child is paramount**
* **All children have the right to protection** from abuse, neglect, or exploitation
* **All allegations or suspicions of abuse** will be taken seriously and acted upon promptly
* **All staff working with children** must hold an enhanced DBS check

**Staff and Volunteer Requirements**

All Football Factory coaches and team members must:

* Complete **enhanced DBS checks** prior to working with children
* Receive **safeguarding training** and follow the Code of Conduct
* Never be left alone with a child (always work in open view or with a second adult present)
* Maintain appropriate professional boundaries

**Parents/Carers Expectations**

Parents and carers are expected to:

* Inform staff of any **medical or behavioural conditions**
* Support a **positive environment**, refraining from abusive or inappropriate language
* Supervise children under 8 unless otherwise agreed

**Child-to-Child Interaction**

We promote a respectful atmosphere. Bullying, harassment or discrimination of any kind will not be tolerated.

**Photography and Social Media**

* **No photography is permitted** without **written parental consent**
* Any images used by Football Factory for promotion will be subject to consent and data protection rules

**Reporting a Concern**

If a child discloses an issue or if you suspect abuse, you must:

1. **Stay calm and listen**
2. **Do not promise confidentiality** – inform them you must pass it on
3. **Report to the Safeguarding Lead immediately**

In an emergency or if a child is at immediate risk, call **999**.

**Types of Abuse**

All staff should be aware of the following:

* **Physical abuse**
* **Emotional abuse**
* **Sexual abuse**
* **Neglect**
* **Bullying (including cyberbullying)**

**Review & Updates**

This policy is reviewed annually or when legislation or best practice changes.

**Last Reviewed:** 20/06/2025  
**Next Review Due:** 20/06/2026

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