



Macclesfield Town Football Club Safeguarding Children Policy

Policy Statement:

Macclesfield Town Football Club (hereinafter referred to as MTFC) acknowledges its responsibility to safeguard the welfare of every child and young person who has been entrusted to its care and is committed to working to provide a safe environment for all members.

A child or young person is anyone aged 18 or below engaged in any club football activity. We subscribe to the EFL's Safeguarding Children Policy and Procedures and endorse and adopt the Policy Statement contained in that document.

Macclesfield Town Football Club Football Club's Safeguarding Policy:

The key principles of the EFL Safeguarding Children Policy are that:

- The child's welfare is, and must always be, the paramount consideration
- 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
- All suspicions and allegations of abuse will be taken seriously and responded to swiftly and appropriately
- Working in partnership with other organisations, children and young people and their parents or carers is essential

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.

Macclesfield Town Football Club recognises that this is the responsibility of every adult involved in our club:

Macclesfield Town Football Club has a role to play in safeguarding the welfare of all children and young people by protecting them from physical, sexual or emotional harm and from neglect or bullying. It is noted and accepted that the EFL's Safeguarding Children Regulation applies to everyone in football whether in a paid or voluntary capacity. This includes those



who are volunteers, match officials, helpers on club tours, football coaches, club officials or medical staff.

A duty has been placed on all sports club to be a key partner in safeguarding that will be confirmed in the new version of working together to safeguard children 2018. Macclesfield Town Football Club therefore recognises the following as definitions of abuse and neglect as defined within Keeping Children Safe in Education and will work with all relevant authorities to report and prevent them.

Types of abuse:

Abuse is defined as a form of maltreatment of a child. Somebody may abuse or neglect a child by inflicting harm, or by failing to act to prevent harm. They may be abused by an adult or adults or another child or children.

Keeping Children Safe in Education outlines four areas of abuse as follows:

Physical abuse: a form of abuse which may involve hitting, shaking, throwing, poisoning, burning or scalding, drowning, suffocating or otherwise causing physical harm to a child. Physical harm may also be caused when a parent or carer fabricates the symptoms of, or deliberately induces, illness in a child.

Emotional abuse: the persistent emotional ill treatment of a child such as to cause severe and adverse effects on the child's emotional development. It may involve conveying to children that they are worthless or unloved, inadequate, or valued only in so far as they meet the needs of another person. It may include not giving the child opportunities to express their views, deliberately silencing them or 'making fun' of what they say or how they communicate. It may feature age or developmentally inappropriate expectations being imposed on children. These may include interactions that are beyond the child's developmental capability as well as overprotection and limitation of exploration and learning, or preventing the child participating in normal social interactions. It may involve seeing or hearing the ill-treatment of another. It may involve serious bullying (including cyber-bullying) causing children frequently to feel frightened or in danger, or the exploitation or corruption of children. Some level of emotional abuse is involved in all types of maltreatment of a child, although it may occur alone.

Sexual abuse: involves forcing or enticing a child or young person to take part in sexual activities, not necessarily involving a high level of violence, whether or not the child is aware



of what is happening. The activities may involve physical contact, including assault by penetration (for example, rape or oral sex) or non-penetrative acts such as masturbation, kissing, rubbing and touching outside of clothing. They may also include non-contact activities, such as involving children in looking at, or in the production of, sexual images, watching sexual activities, encouraging children to behave in sexually inappropriate ways, or grooming a child in preparation for abuse (including via the internet). Sexual abuse is not solely perpetrated by adult males. Women can also commit acts of sexual abuse, as can other children.

Neglect: the persistent failure to meet a child's basic physical/and/or psychological needs, likely to result in the serious impairment of the child's health or development. Neglect may occur during pregnancy as a result of maternal substance abuse. Once a child is born, neglect may involve a parent or carer failing to: provide adequate food, clothing and shelter (including exclusion from home or abandonment); protect a child from physical and emotional harm or danger; ensure adequate supervision (including the use of inadequate care-givers); ensure access to appropriate medical care or treatment. It may also include neglect of, or unresponsiveness to, a child's basic emotional needs.

In addition, Keeping Children Safe in Education identifies that there are wider safeguarding issues that we need to consider and act upon. The statutory guidance list 16 specific safeguarding issues and provides links to further information regarding all of these areas. The 16 specific safeguarding issues are listed as:

Child Sexual Exploitation	Bullying including Cyberbullying
Domestic Violence	Drugs
Fabricated or Induced Illness	Faith Abuse
Female Genital Mutilation (FGM)	Forced Marriage
Gangs and Youth Violence Women and Girls (VAWG)	Gender-based Violence/Violence Against
Mental Health	Private Fostering
Radicalisation	Sexting



Teenage Relationship Abuse

Trafficking

The role of the Designated Safeguarding Officer:

Macclesfield Town Football Club has appointed a Designated Safeguarding Officer (DSO) in line with the EFL's role profile and required completion of the Safeguarding Children Workshop. The post holder will be involved with designated person's training provided by the EFL. The DSO is the first point of contact for all club members and parents or guardians regarding concerns for the welfare of any child or young person. They will also play a proactive role in increasing an awareness of poor practice and abuse amongst club members.

The Designated Safeguarding Officer's role includes but is not limited to the following

- The Designated Safeguarding Officer may take advice from the EFL CPA if required before a decision is made.
- If the Designated Safeguarding Officer decides that they must report the allegation, the Designated Safeguarding Officer should contact Social Services or the LADO by telephone and send relevant written back up within 24 hours of the initial disclosure/allegation, if requested.
- The Designated Safeguarding Officer will ensure details of all referrals or allegations are passed on to EFL DSO and the Football League case management team within 72 hours
- The young person and referring staff member should be informed of the action being taken and the reasons for this decision. This should happen before Social Care Services are informed, unless doing so would place the young person at greater risk. In this case, both staff and player should be contacted as soon as safety considerations of the young person permit.
- The Designated Safeguarding Officer should ensure that all written records relating to the incident are kept indefinitely, in a secure location. All electronic records are stored in a restricted area and all incidents are recorded on a central record.

Macclesfield Town Football Club's DSO is the Welfare Officer who can be contacted on 01625 264686 or 07522 903063 or by writing to Macclesfield Town FC Moss Rose Ground, London Road, Macclesfield SK11 7SP.

Any allegation, disclosure or suspicion of abuse needs will be taken seriously and handled in a sensitive manner. Individual members of staff should wherever possible deal with safeguarding disclosures with the help of a designated officer or lead, and should always refer to a designated person if available, who will undertake the interview. Information should be strictly limited to those who need to know.



Process:

As outlined in Part One of Keeping Children Safe in Education ‘if, at any point, *there is a risk of immediate serious harm* to a child a referral should be made to children or adult Social Care immediately. Anybody can make a referral’. If this ever happens, staff must inform one of the Designated Safeguarding Officer or lead at the first possible moment.

Staff should ALWAYS make it clear to a young person that they cannot make guarantees of confidentiality.

The following forms a checklist for those dealing with a disclosure

- Listen carefully to what is being said
- Keep questions to a minimum, just to clarify what is being said
- Avoid leading questions, prompting or making comments
- Suspend your own judgement – remember that you are not investigating the matter
- Inform the young person of the actions that will follow your conversation and assure them that they will be kept informed of all developments.
- Staff should support the student and give reassurances whilst explaining which other people will need to know about the allegations.
- Staff should make notes of the conversations which may be shared by the investigating agency (e.g. Social Services) including the below.

During or immediately after the disclosure record the following:

- Names of those present during the disclosure/allegation
- Address and contact of young person
- Date of birth
- Ethnic origin
- Other agencies already involved
- Date and time of the conversation
- Place where the alleged abuse happened
- Brief description of the allegation
- Any visible injuries
- Any alleged injuries
- The young person’s preferred action
- Means of contacting the young person
- Next steps and follow up agreed

We acknowledge and endorse the EFL’s identification of bullying as a category of abuse. Bullying of any kind is not acceptable at our club. We have a separate Anti-bullying process in place which outlines in detail how Macclesfield Town Football Club deals with bullying. Incidents need to be reported to the DSO, or, in cases of serious bullying, contact the County FA’s Welfare Officer.