



Marston Green Football Club Safeguarding Policy

MARSTON GREEN FOOTBALL CLUB acknowledges its responsibility to safeguard the welfare of every child and young person and is committed to providing a safe environment for all. We recognise that a child is anyone under the age of 18 and subscribe to The Football Association's (The FA) Safeguarding Children Policy and Procedures.

MARSTON GREEN FOOTBALL CLUB endorses and adopts the following key safeguarding principles:

- 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, gender reassignment, sexual orientation, marital status or civil partnership, race, nationality, ethnic origin, colour, religion or belief, ability or disability, pregnancy and maternity.
- All suspicions and allegations of abuse will be taken seriously and responded to swiftly and appropriately.

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.

MARSTON GREEN FOOTBALL CLUB recognises that this is the responsibility of **every adult involved in our club.**

MARSTON GREEN 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 FA's Safeguarding Children Regulations (see The FA Handbook TheFA.com/football-rules-governance/laws-and-rules/fa-handbook) apply to everyone in football whether in a paid or voluntary capacity, including coaches/managers, volunteers, match officials, helpers on club tours, or medical staff or other club officials/helpers.

We endorse and adopt The FA's Safer Recruitment guidelines and we will:

- Specify what the role is and what tasks it involves.
- Request identification documents.
- As a minimum meet and chat with the applicant(s) and where possible interview people before appointing them.
- Ask for and follow up with 2 references before appointing someone.
- Where eligible require an FA-accepted DBS enhanced with barred list Check, in line with The FA's current Safeguarding Children Policy and Regulations.

All current MARSTON GREEN FOOTBALL CLUB members working in eligible roles with children and young people, such as coaches/managers, are required to hold an in-date FA accepted DBS enhanced with barred list check as part of safer recruitment practice.



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Whistle Blowing

MARSTON GREEN FOOTBALL CLUB supports The FA's Whistle Blowing policy which requires any adult or young person with concerns about an adult in a position of trust within football can 'whistle blow' by contacting The FA Safeguarding Team on 0800 169 1863, by writing to:

The FA Case Manager at the Football Association

Wembley Stadium, PO Box 1966

London SW1P 9EQ

or by emailing Safeguarding@TheFA.com or alternatively by going direct to the Police, Children's Social Care or the NSPCC.

MARSTON GREEN FOOTBALL CLUB encourages everyone to know about The FA's Whistle Blowing Policy and to use it if necessary.

Welfare Officer (s)

MARSTON GREEN FOOTBALL CLUB has appointed Club Welfare Officers (Youth Teams) ("CWO") in line with The FA's role profile who have completed the Safeguarding Children and Welfare Officers Workshop. The post holders will be involved with ongoing Welfare Officer training provided by The FA and/or CFA. The CWOs are the first point of contact for all club members regarding concerns about the welfare of any child or young person. The CWOs will consult directly with the CFA Designated Safeguarding Officer and will be familiar with the procedures for referring any concerns. The CWO will also play a proactive role in increasing awareness of respect, poor practice, and abuse amongst club members.

It is important that any concerns are reported to the CWOs, who will deal with reported concerns as follows:

- Our CWOs will manage poor practice and where necessary seek advice from the CFA Designated Safeguarding Officer (CFA DSO).
- Our CWOs will make referrals about more serious concerns to the CFA DSO, or in an emergency contact the Police or Children's Social Care.
- We will ensure that if the child needs immediate medical treatment that we take them to a hospital or call an ambulance and tell them it is a child protection concern.
- Our CWOs will keep records of the actions taken and keep the CFA DSO informed.



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Bullying

We acknowledge and endorse The FA's identification of bullying as a category of abuse. Bullying of any kind is not acceptable at our club. If bullying does occur, all players and parents/carers should be able to access our anti-bullying policy and know that incidents will be dealt with appropriately. Incidents need to be reported to the CWO and in cases of serious bullying the CFA Designated Safeguarding Officer may be contacted.

Code of Conduct

Codes of conduct for Players, Parents/Spectators and Coaches/Managers (as required by the CPSU Safeguarding Standards) have been implemented by MARSTON GREEN FOOTBALL CLUB. In order to police these codes of conduct the club has clear actions it will take regarding repeated or serious misconduct at club level and acknowledges the possibility of potential sanctions which may be implemented by the CFA in more serious circumstances.

Our Child Welfare Officers contact details:

Rachel Keating – Lead Welfare Officer	07795 387436
Dawn Taylor – Assistant Welfare Officer	07786 175147
Katie Banks – Assistant Welfare Officer	07388 778182

The FA's Safeguarding Framework can be found at:

www.thefa.com/football-rules-governance/safeguarding