

# St Columba's Junior Football Club

## Child Welfare Policy

Season 2019/20



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### Statement

Safeguarding children is high on The FA's agenda, and the principles of their policies are robustly supported at St Columba's JFC.

Football can have a powerful and positive influence on young people, but that means everyone involved in football must accept the responsibilities of looking after those children who want to play the game.

Safeguarding children is about doing things the right way; doing things properly. It is about allowing children to enjoy the game without abuse of any kind. That means bullying, physical, emotional, sexual abuse and neglect.

### Child Welfare Policy

St Columba's JFC acknowledges its responsibility to safeguard the welfare of every child and young person who is entrusted to its care, and is committed to working to provide a safe environment for all members. A child or young person is anyone under the age of 18 engaged in any club football activity. We subscribe to The FA's Safeguarding Children policy and procedures and endorse and adopt the policy statement contained in that document.

The key principles of The FA's 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/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. St Columba's JFC recognises that this is the responsibility of every adult involved in our club.

St Columba's JFC 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 Child Protection Regulation applies to everyone in football whether in a paid or voluntary capacity. This means whether you are a volunteer, match official, football coach or club official.

We endorse and adopt The FA's Responsible Recruitment guidelines for recruiting volunteers and we will:

- Develop a role profile
- Request identification documents
- As a minimum meet and chat with the applicant(s) and where possible conduct interviews before appointing
- Require a DBS Enhanced Disclosure where appropriate in line with FA guidelines.

St Columba's JFC 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 Team on 0207 745 4787, by writing to The FA Case Manager at The Football Association, 25 Soho Square, W1D 4FA, or alternatively by going direct to the Police, Children's Services or the NSPCC. St Columba's JFC encourages everyone to know about this facility and to utilise it if necessary.

St Columba's JFC has appointed a Club Welfare Officer (CWO) in line with The FA's role profile. The post holder will be involved with Welfare Officer training provided by The FA and/or County FA. The CWO is the first point of contact for all club committee members regarding concerns about the welfare of any child or young person. The CWO will liaise directly with the County FA Welfare Officer and will be familiar with the procedures for referring any concerns. They will also play a proactive role in increasing awareness of Respect, poor practice and abuse amongst their Club members.

We acknowledge and endorse The FA's identification of bullying as a category of abuse. Bullying of any kind is not acceptable in our club. If bullying does occur, all players or parents/carers should be able to report and know that incidents will be dealt with promptly. Incidents need to be reported to the CWO or alternatively, in cases of serious bullying, we may contact the County FA Welfare Officer.

Respect codes of conduct for Players, Parents/Spectators, Officials and Coaches have been implemented by St Columba's JFC. In order to validate these Respect 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 County FA in more serious circumstances. All registering members will be required to adopt the Respect codes.

Reporting your concerns about the welfare of a child or young person is everyone's responsibility. If you are worried about a child it is important that you report your concerns - no action is not an option.

If you are worried about a child then you need to report your concerns to the CWO. If the issue is one of poor practice they will either:

- Deal with the matter themselves or
- Seek advice from the CFA Welfare Officer.

If the concern is more serious - possible child abuse - they will, where possible, contact the County FA Welfare Officer first, then immediately contact the Police or Children's Services. If the child needs immediate medical treatment take them to a hospital or call an ambulance and tell them this is a child protection concern. Let your County FA Welfare Officer know what action you have taken. If at any time you are not able to contact your CWO or the matter is serious then you can either:

- Contact your County FA Welfare Officer directly or
- Call The FA/NSPCC 24-hour Helpline for advice on 0808 800 5000 or
- Contact the Police or Children's Services.

NB - The FA's Safeguarding Children Policy and Procedures is available via [www.TheFA.com/Footballsafes](http://www.TheFA.com/Footballsafes). Click on the 'downloads' under Policy and Procedures, it outlines in detail what to do if you are concerned about the welfare of a child and includes flow diagrams to describe this process. This is also covered within the Safeguarding Children workshop, where participants are given the opportunity to discuss how this feels and how best they can prepare themselves to deal with such a situation.

Further advice on Safeguarding Children matters can be obtained from:

- [www.TheFA.com/Footballsafes](http://www.TheFA.com/Footballsafes)
  - County Football Association's Governance Manager – John Riordan (as at 11.06.12)
    - telephone no: 0113 282 2358
    - email: [john.riordan@wrcfa.com](mailto:john.riordan@wrcfa.com)
  - The FA Safeguarding Children enquiry line 0845 210 8080
  - Emailing - [Footballsafes@TheFA.com](mailto:Footballsafes@TheFA.com)
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