



Safeguarding Children Policy

1 Boro Soccer Schools (BSS) 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 under the age of 18 engaged in any club football activity. We subscribe to The Football Association's Safeguarding Children Policy and Procedures and endorse and adopt the Policy Statement contained in that document.

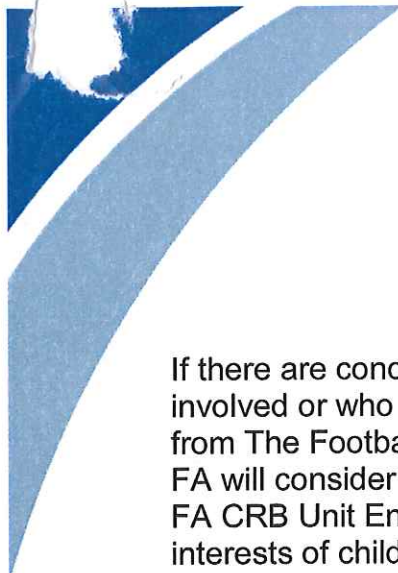
2 The key principles of The FA Safeguarding Children Policy are that:

- 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. Boro Soccer Schools recognises that this is the responsibility of every adult involved in our club.

3 BSS 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 Football Association'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.

4 We endorse and adopt The FA's Safeguarding Children Guidelines for Recruiting and Vetting and 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
- Request and follow up with two references before appointing
- Require an FA CRB Unit Enhanced Disclosure where appropriate in line with FA guidelines. All current BSS members with direct access to children and young people will be required to complete a CRB Enhanced Disclosure via The FA CRB Unit.



If there are concerns regarding the appropriateness of an individual who is already involved or who has approached us to become part of BSS, guidance will be sought from The Football Association and Local Authority. 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. 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 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.

5 Boro Soccer Schools 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, or by going directly to the Police, Social Services or the NSPCC. Boro Soccer Schools encourages everyone to know about it and utilise it if necessary.

6 Boro Soccer Schools has appointed a Welfare Officer (WO) in line with The FA'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 FA. The CWO is the first point of contact for all members and parents or guardians regarding concerns for the welfare of any child or young person. They will liaise directly with the FA's Child Protection Department and will be familiar with the procedures for referring any concerns. They will also play a proactive role in increasing an awareness of poor practice and abuse amongst club members.

7 We acknowledge and endorse The FA's identification of bullying as a category of abuse. Bullying of any kind is not acceptable within BSS. 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 WO, a member of staff or, in cases of serious bullying, contact the Child Protection Department.

