



Safeguarding Policy 2024/2025

Introduction

At 7 Elite Academy, we are committed to creating a safe, inclusive, and enjoyable environment for all young people participating in grassroots football. Our safeguarding policy aims to protect children and young people from harm, promote their welfare, and ensure that everyone involved in our academy understands their roles and responsibilities in keeping children safe.

Policy Statement

7 Elite Academy believes that the welfare of children is paramount and that everyone, regardless of age, disability, gender, racial or ethnic origin, religious beliefs, or sexual identity, has the right to be protected from abuse or harm. We are dedicated to safeguarding all participants by creating a secure, respectful, and supportive environment.

1. Scope of the Policy

This policy applies to all academy staff, coaches, volunteers, players, parents, and any other individuals involved in our activities. It outlines procedures for preventing, identifying, and responding to concerns about child welfare or safety.

2. Objectives

- To promote the welfare of children and protect them from abuse, exploitation, or harm.
- To ensure all coaches, volunteers, and staff understand their roles and responsibilities regarding safeguarding.
- To establish clear procedures for reporting and handling concerns related to child welfare.
- To ensure a safe environment where children feel valued, respected, and listened to.

3. Legal and Regulatory Framework

Our safeguarding policy aligns with the following guidelines:

- The Children Act 1989 & 2004
- The Working Together to Safeguard Children guidelines
- The FA's Safeguarding Children Policy
- Local authority safeguarding board policies and procedures



4. Roles and Responsibilities

Academy Safeguarding Officer (ASO)

The ASO is responsible for:

- Overseeing safeguarding practices within the academy.
- Ensuring all staff and volunteers are aware of safeguarding policies and procedures.
- Acting as a point of contact for safeguarding concerns.
- Liaising with local safeguarding authorities and The FA.

Coaches, Staff, and Volunteers

All coaches, staff, and volunteers are responsible for:

- Complying with the academy's safeguarding policy.
- Completing safeguarding training as required.
- Reporting any safeguarding concerns immediately to the ASO.
- Maintaining a safe and inclusive environment during all activities.

Parents and Guardians

Parents and guardians play a key role by:

- Supporting the academy's safeguarding policies and practices.
- Reporting any concerns to the ASO or relevant authority.
- Encouraging a positive and respectful environment for all players.

5. Code of Conduct

All staff, volunteers, and players are expected to:

- Treat each other with respect.
- Prioritize children's welfare in all activities.
- Follow academy guidelines on appropriate behaviour.
- Report any concerns, suspicions, or allegations immediately.

6. Recruitment and Training

- All staff and volunteers must undergo a robust recruitment process, including interviews, reference checks, valid FA First Aid and Safeguarding qualifications and enhanced DBS checks.
- Mandatory safeguarding training is required for all staff, coaches, and volunteers to ensure they understand the latest safeguarding practices and procedures.



7. Reporting Concerns

If any staff, volunteer, parent, or child has concerns about the welfare of a child, they should follow these steps:

1. **Report** - Inform the ASO immediately. If unavailable, report to a senior member of staff.
2. **Record** - Document the concern in writing, providing as much detail as possible.
3. **Referral** - The ASO will assess the concern and, if necessary, refer it to local safeguarding authorities or The FA.

Confidentiality

All concerns will be treated with the utmost confidentiality, and information will only be shared with relevant parties when necessary for the child's safety.

8. Responding to Allegations of Abuse

In the event of an allegation of abuse involving a coach, volunteer, or other member of the academy:

- The ASO will be informed immediately and will follow the academy's disciplinary and safeguarding procedures.
- The individual may be suspended while investigations are conducted.
- The ASO will work with the appropriate authorities to manage the case.

9. Anti-Bullying Policy

7 Elite Academy has a zero-tolerance policy towards bullying. Coaches, staff, and players are expected to promote respect, inclusion, and positive behaviour. Any reports of bullying will be taken seriously and addressed according to academy guidelines.

10. Monitoring and Review

This safeguarding policy will be reviewed annually or whenever there is a change in relevant legislation. Updates and changes will be communicated to all staff, volunteers, and parents. Feedback from participants, parents, and staff will be considered in improving safeguarding practices.



11. Contact Information

For any safeguarding concerns, please contact:

Academy Safeguarding & Welfare Officer

Name: Anthony Godfrey
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Name: Billy Vaughan
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Liverpool County FA

Name: Lisa Morrison
Phone: 0151 523 4488 (ext 204)
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The FA

Phone: 0800 169 1863
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