



Blackpool Football Club/Academy Visitor's Safeguarding and Child Protection Procedures

Blackpool FC Academy take safeguarding and child protection very seriously.

We are fully committed to safeguarding our players and ensuring that we provide a secure environment where children are happy and can achieve.

We ensure that we:

- Practice safe recruitment by checking the suitability of staff and volunteers to work with children.
- Raise awareness of child protection issues and equip children with the skills needed to keep them safe.
- Develop and implement procedures for identifying and reporting cases, or suspected cases of abuse. Concerns can be reported to the academy designated safeguarding officer.
- Establish a safe environment in which our players can learn and develop.

Visiting us

All adults visiting the Academy need to be aware that they are responsible for their own actions and behaviour and that they should avoid any conduct which would lead a reasonable person to question their motivation or intentions.

As such, it is essential that all visitors to our academy:

- Sign in at admin office, showing photographic
- Act and are seen to act in an open and transparent way.
- Are aware that they should discuss and / or take advice promptly from the member of staff they are visiting or a senior member of staff about any incident which could give rise to concern.
- - Report comments by a player, marks/bruises on a player, and/or worrying behaviour by a member of staff to ensure that such situations can be handled promptly and sensitively.
- - Apply the same standards regardless of gender or sexual

orientation. Do not discriminate favourable or unfavourable towards any child. As such treat players equally.

- - Are aware that breaches of the law and other guidelines could result in criminal or disciplinary action being taken against them.
- - Behave in a mature, respectful, safe, fair and considered manner and as such are not sarcastic, do not make remarks or 'jokes' to players of a personal, sexual, racist, discriminatory, intimidating or otherwise offensive nature and do not embarrass or humiliate players.

All adults who visit our Academy must ensure that their relationship with students remains on a professional footing:

- - Not behave in a way that could lead a reasonable observer to question your conduct, intentions or suitability to care for other people's players.
- - Keep the door open when alone with a player and ensure that you can be seen.
- - Not touch or photographs.
- - Not give out your personal details.
- - Not make arrangements to contact, communicate or meet with players outside of the academy – unless direct family members (this includes use of email, text, other messaging systems and social networking sites).
- - Not develop 'personal' or sexual relationships with players.

Procedures

No child should suffer harm, either at home or at school. Everyone who visits or works in our academy has a responsibility to ensure that all of our young people are safe.

This leaflet has been given to you to make sure you understand what is expected of you. Please ask at the admin office if you are unclear about anything in it, and keep the leaflet in a safe place, so that you can read it again if you need to.

As a visitor to our Academy, if you are worried about the safety of any of our young people you **MUST** follow the same procedures as any other adult working in our academy:

- Discuss the issue immediately with one of the designated child protection officers (see list overleaf).

Remember that an allegation of child abuse or neglect may lead to criminal investigation so don't do anything that may jeopardise a police investigation, such as:

- Asking a child leading questions.
- Attempting to investigate the allegations of abuse.
- Interviewing the child.
- Making copious notes.



A record of a concern, suspicion or allegation should be made at the time or as soon as possible after the event. The designated safeguarding officer will ensure that records taken are factual, using the child's own words where a disclosure is made.

All records will be recorded on a referral form and dated and signed, with the name of the signatory clearly printed, and filed in chronological order by student in the master folder held by the designated child protection officer.

We take seriously all referrals whether they are being made by the victim or a friend of the victim, a member of staff or parent.

DO

Listen, but do not question the child in a leading manner.

DO NOT

Do not show shock or disbelief.

Give undertakings of confidentiality. Always pre-empt a conversation where a player wants to confide in you with a statement about the possibility of you needing to share the issue if they tell you something which makes you feel that their safety is at risk.

Conclusion

It is essential that we all:

- Follow the same procedures.
- Deal with all suspicions of abuse swiftly, especially where there is a risk of physical danger.
- Keep an open and enquiring mind, showing vigilance at all times.
- Share information.
- Remember that any child could be a victim of abuse.
- Never promise confidentiality.

Blackpool football club academy

The designated safeguarding officers and welfare team are:

Club/Academy – William Cowell

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Academy Director – Ciaran Donnelly

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Club Secretary – Nick Horne

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