

SAINTS SOUTHWEST

SAFEGUARDING POLICY



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AIMS & KEY PRINCIPLES

The aims of Saints Southwest Safeguarding Children Policy are:

- To safeguard all children who interact with Saints Southwest activities;
- To demonstrate best practice in the area of safeguarding children;
- To develop a positive and proactive welfare programme to enable all children and young persons to participate in an enjoyable and safe environment; and
- To promote high ethical standards throughout Saints Southwest activities.

The key principles underpinning this policy are:

- The child or young person'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 identity;
- All allegations of abuse will be taken seriously and responded to efficiently and appropriately;
- To encourage parents and other members of the child or young person's family to be involved in a relationship with Saints Southwest; and
- To ensure that coaches, parents and other adults who come in contact with children and young people provide good role models of behaviour

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Saints Southwest 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 (The FA) Safeguarding Children – Policy and Procedures and endorse and adopt the Policy Statement contained in that document.

Saints Southwest 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 Regulations (see The FA Handbook) applies to everyone in football whether in a paid or voluntary capacity. This means whether you are a volunteer, match official, helper on club tours, football coach, club official or medical staff

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Somebody may abuse or neglect an individual by inflicting harm or by failing to act to prevent harm. Abuse can potentially take place in a number of different settings, these could include a family environment, peer to peer, an institutional or community setting by those known to them or by others or online or via social media platforms. They may be abused by an adult or group of adults, children and other young people or another Adult at Risk. There are 10 recognised categories of abuse under the Care Act 2014:

Neglect and acts of omission

- Others ignore basic medical, emotional or physical care needs
- Failure to provide access to appropriate health, support or education services
- Withholding of basic living essentials e.g. food, medication, shelter/heating

Sexual abuse

- Rape, indecent exposure, sexual harassment, inappropriate looking/touching
- Sexual teasing, innuendo or photography
- Subjection to pornography or sexual acts
- Non-consensual sexual acts (or acts where was pressure used to get consent)

Physical abuse

- Assault (e.g. hitting, slapping, pushing)
- Misuse of medication or injections
- Restraint or inappropriate physical sanction

Psychological/ emotional abuse

- Threats of harm or abandonment, isolation or ignoring
- Humiliation, blame, the exertion of control, intimidation or coercion
- Harassment, verbal abuse or cyberbullying
- Unreasonable and unjustified withdrawal of services or supportive networks

Discriminatory abuse (including hate crime)

- Forms of harassment, insults or bullying based on race, gender, gender identity, age, disability, sexual orientation or religion

Financial or material abuse

- Theft, fraud (including cyber fraud), or coercion in relation to an adult at risk's financial affairs or arrangements
- Undue control over a will, property, inheritance or financial transactions
- Misuse or misappropriation of property, possessions or benefits

Organisational abuse

- Poor care practice within a specific care setting (e.g. hospital or care home)
- Neglect in relation to care provided in an Adult at Risk's own home
- Could include one-off incidents or on-going ill-treatment

Domestic ABUSE

- Any incident or pattern of incidents of controlling, coercive or threatening behaviour, violence or abuse. This can encompass, but is not limited to psychological, physical, sexual, financial, emotional abuse and so called 'honour' based violence among certain communities and ethnic groups

Modern slavery

- Slavery, human trafficking, forced labour and domestic servitude
- Includes coercion deception used to force individuals into a life of abuse, servitude and inhumane treatment

Self-neglect

- Neglect in self-hygiene and personal health
- Neglect in care for living conditions (including hoarding)