



St. Mary's Football Club

St Mary's Football Club

Child Protection Policy

St Marys Football Club is run on a voluntary basis and exists to provide footballing facilities for boys and girls in the local area and surrounding districts. St Marys FC operates an 'Open Door Policy' in relation to membership regardless of race, religion, disability or gender.

St Marys FC believe it is the responsibility of those in charge to care for and develop the participants involved to the best of their individual abilities by creating an environment in which they are safe and receive the best possible coaching. Fair play, mutual understanding and cross community aspects play an important role in the ethos of the club. The Committee and coaches within St Marys FC have been made aware of our ethos regarding Child Protection Policy.

To accommodate our Child Protection Policy we institute the following principles:

- 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.
- 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 Marys FC recognizes that this is the responsibility of every adult involved in our club.
- ST Marys FC 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. The child protection regulation applies to everyone in football whether in a paid or voluntary capacity.
- This includes those who are a volunteer, match official, helpers on club tours, football coach, club official or medical staff.
- Incidents need to be reported to the CWO, a member of the committee or, in cases of serious bullying contact the IFA Child Welfare Officer.
- Codes of conduct for players, parents or spectators, officials and coaches have been implemented by St Marys FC.