

## Safeguarding Children Policy

1. Rawmarsh St Joseph's JFC acknowledges its responsibility to Safeguard the welfare of every child and young person who have been entrusted to its care and is committed to working to provide a safe environment for all our members. A child or young person is anyone under the age of 18 engaged in any

Rawmarsh St Joseph's JFC 'football', presentation evening(s) or any other activity organised by Rawmarsh St Joseph's JFC or individual teams herein. We abide by The Football Association's

Safeguarding Children – policy and procedures, and we endorse and adopt the appropriate policy

statements contained in that document.

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

- A. The child's welfare is, and must always be, the paramount consideration
- B. All children and young people have a right to be protected from abuse regardless of their age, gender, disability,
- C. race, sexual orientation, faith or belief. Any suspicions and allegations of abuse will be taken seriously and responded to swiftly and appropriately.
- D. We undertake to working in partnership with other relevant organisations, parents/guardians/carers to ensure children and young people's welfare is paramount.

We acknowledge that every child or young person who plays or participates in football with Rawmarsh St Joseph's JFC should be able to take part within an enjoyable and safe environment and be protected from poor practice and abuse. Rawmarsh St Joseph's JFC recognises that

this is the responsibility of every adult involved and/or associated with our club.

3. Rawmarsh St Joseph's JFC 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 at training or on club tours, football coach, club official or medical staff.

4. We endorse and adopt The FA's Responsible Recruitment guidelines for recruiting volunteers and we will:

- a) Specify what the role is and what tasks it involves.
- b) Request identification documents.
- c) As a minimum meet and chat with the applicant(s) and where possible interview people before we consider appointing them.
- d) Ask for and follow up with 2 references before appointing someone.
- e) Require an FA accepted Enhanced Criminal Record Check in line with current FA policy and regulations.

If there are concerns regarding the appropriateness of an individual who is already involved or who has approached us to become part of Rawmarsh St Joseph's JFC guidance will be sought from The Football Association. It is noted and recognised that The FA will consider the relevance and significance of the information obtained via the CRC Process and that all suitability decisions will be made in accordance with legislation and 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. Rawmarsh St Joseph's JFC supports The FA's Whistle Blowing Policy. Any adult or young person with concerns about an adult in a position of trust with football can 'whistle blow' by contacting:

The FA Safeguarding Team on 0800 169 1863

The FA Case Manager at The Football Association – in writing  
Wembley Stadium,  
PO Box 1966,  
London SW1P 9EQ,

[Safeguarding@TheFA.com](mailto:Safeguarding@TheFA.com) - by emailing

Or alternatively by going directly to the Police, Rotherham Metropolitan Borough Councils Children's Social Care, the NSPCC. Rawmarsh St Joseph's JFC Football Club – Child Welfare Officer encourages everyone to know about The FA's Whistle Blowing Policy and to utilise it if necessary.

6. Rawmarsh St Joseph's JFC has appointed a Club Welfare Officer in line with The FA's role profile and required completion of the Safeguarding Children and Child Welfare Officers Workshop. The post holder will be involved with Welfare Officer training provided by The FA and/or County FA. The Club Child Welfare Officer is the first point of contact for all club members regarding concerns about the welfare of any child or young person. The Club Welfare Officer will liaise directly with the County FA (CFA) Welfare Officer and will be familiar with the procedures for referring any concerns. They will also play a proactive role in increasing awareness of respect, 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 at our club. If bullying does occur, all players or parents/carers/guardians should be able to tell and know that incidents will be dealt with promptly. Incidents need to be reported to the Club Welfare Officer in cases of serious bullying the CFA Welfare Officer may be contacted.

8. Respect codes of conduct for players, parents/guardians/carers/spectators, officials and coaches have been implemented by Rawmarsh St Joseph's JFC, to validate these respect codes of conduct the club has clear actions it will take regarding repeated or serious misconduct at club level and acknowledges the possibility of potential sanctions which may be implemented by the County FA in more serious circumstances.

9. Reporting your concerns about the welfare of a child or young person.....

**Safeguarding is everyone's responsibility – no action is not an option.** If you are worried about a child, it is important that you report your concerns to the Club Child Welfare Officer:  
Paul Armin

If the issue is one of poor practice the Club Welfare Officer will either:

- deal with the matter themselves or
- seek advice from the CFA Welfare Officer

If the concern is more serious – potential child abuse, where possible, contact the CFA Welfare Officer first, then immediately contact the Police on 101 or Rotherham Metropolitan Borough Councils Children's Social Care on 01709 3360780.

If the child needs immediate medical treatment take them to a hospital or call an ambulance and tell them this is a child protection concern. Let your Club Welfare Officer know what action you have taken, they in turn will inform the CFA Welfare Officer.

If at any time you are not able to contact your Club Welfare Officer, or the matter is clearly serious then you can contact your County FA Welfare Officer directly:

Lisa Glaves:

Telephone: 0114 261 5500

E-Mail: [lisa.glaves@sheffieldfa.com](mailto:lisa.glaves@sheffieldfa.com)

NB – The FA's Safeguarding Children Policy and Procedures are available via –

[www.TheFA.com/football-rules-governance/safeguarding](http://www.TheFA.com/football-rules-governance/safeguarding)

Further advice on Safeguarding Children matters can be obtained from:

Emailing – [Safeguarding@TheFA.com](mailto:Safeguarding@TheFA.com)

The FA Safeguarding Children general enquiry line 0845 210 8080

The FA Respect Programme provides a series of tools for all involved in football to ensure a positive and safe environment in which to enjoy the game. These tools include a code of conduct which are there to help deter poor behaviour.

There are Respect Codes of Conduct for:

- I. Young Players
- II. Adult Players
- III. Spectators and Parents/Carers
- IV. Coaches, Team Managers and Club Officials
- V. Match Officials

Each Code explains that actions can be taken if the Code is broken. Although the County FA or The FA will deal with cases of reported misconduct, we also have a role to play in dealing with poor behaviour from players, officials or spectators. This can range from education, mentoring, official warnings, suspension or even exclusion from the club or league. Respect works by placing responsibility on individuals for their actions: break your Code and bear the consequences. Each Respect Code of Conduct explains that action can and will be taken if the Code is broken. The code should be signed and returned by players and parents during registration at the start of each season. A copy of each code can be found in the appendix.