



**Kirk Deighton Rangers Junior Football Club**  
*"A Charter Standard Club"*

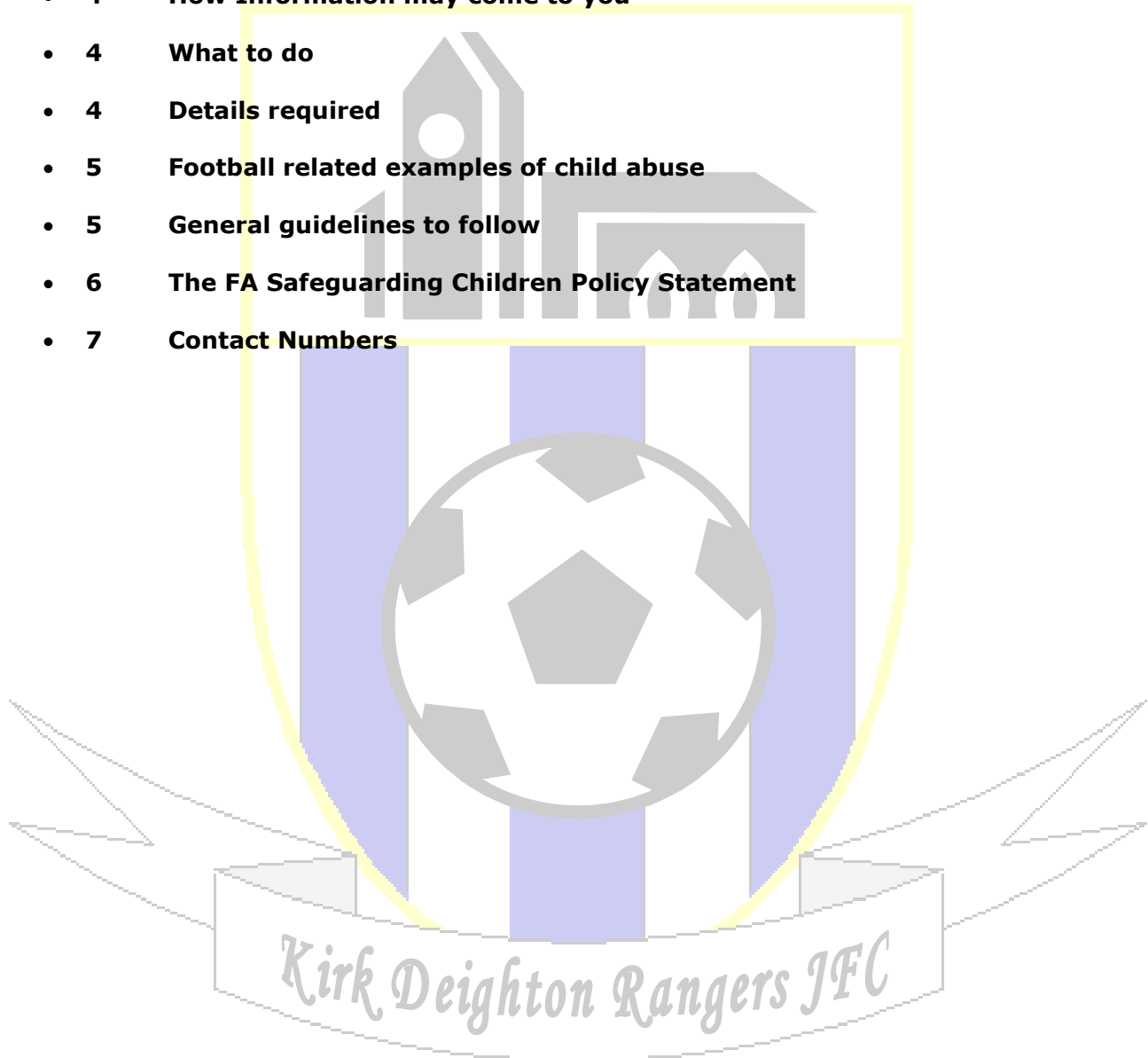
[www.kdrjfc.com](http://www.kdrjfc.com)

# **Safeguarding Children Policy & Guidance 2023/24**

*Kirk Deighton Rangers JFC*

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## **KDRJFC Safeguarding Children Policy Statement**

Kirk Deighton Rangers Junior Football Club recognises its responsibility to safeguard the welfare of all its players from physical, sexual or emotional harm and from neglect and bullying. The Club strives to provide football opportunities to young people to the highest possible standards of care.

Every young person who plays football should be able to participate in an enjoyable and safe environment and be protected from any form of abuse, regardless of his or her age, gender, disability or racial origin. Kirk Deighton Rangers Junior Football Club recognises that this is the responsibility of every adult involved in our club.

Children's welfare is, and must always be, the paramount consideration. All suspicions and allegations of abuse will be taken seriously and responded to swiftly and appropriately.

*KDRJFC is proud to support, and be part of, the FA respect campaign as part of the Harrogate & District Junior Football League*



### **What Safeguarding Children is about:**

- Protecting children from physical, sexual or emotional harm and from neglect and bullying
- Child protection procedures apply to anyone connected with the club, managers, coaches, referees, club officials, helpers, parents and carers.
- "Child" is defined as anyone under the age of 18
- Clubs must include the FA policy statement (see page 6) on Safeguarding Children in their rules
- A Safeguarding Children Officer must be appointed and clearly identified.

**"Non-Action" is not an option in Safeguarding Children**

### **How to recognise the signs:**

(This list is not exhaustive)

- Unexplained bruising, cuts or burns
- An injury the explanation for which seems inconsistent
- The child describes an abusive act to you or someone else
- Changes in behaviour – appearing quiet or withdrawn or showing sudden outbursts of temper
- Sexual awareness which is inappropriate for the age of the child
- Sexually explicit behaviour
- Loss of weight
- A dirty or unkempt appearance
- A mistrust of adults
- Not wishing any issues of behaviour to be discussed with parents / carers

**How information may come to you:**

- Directly from the child
- Via a third party
- Through your observations of behavioural change
- The abuse may not be directly related to the football club – it could be happening at home, school or elsewhere

**Do not assume that someone else will take action!****Do not assume that someone else will have noticed!****What to do:**

If told by a child of a possible case of child abuse:

- React calmly
- Tell the child he/she is not to blame
- Take the allegation seriously
- Ensure the child is safe.
- Is medical treatment required?
- Listen – don't talk or lead the child to say things they didn't mean to
- Reassure – but give no assurances of confidentiality
- Report incident to Safeguarding Children Officer or seek advice from Social Services or the Police
- (NOT the parents if the allegations are about them)
- Take action yourself if the allegations involve a colleague within the club (manager, coach, referee etc.)
- Make a full written record of what was said, within 24 hours

**Details Required:**

- The child's name, address and date of birth
- The nature of the allegation
- A description of any visible injuries
- The child's account of what happened
- Your observations, or observations made to you
- The time, date, location of the alleged abuse or any other relevant facts
- Make a clear distinction between fact, opinion and hearsay
- Your knowledge of and relationship to the child.

### **Football related examples of Child Abuse:**

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Let's make football safe – not sorry

**Physical abuse** – when the nature and intensity of training exceeds the capacity of the child's immature and growing body. Encouragement to take performance enhancing drugs or alcohol.

**Neglect** – Failing to ensure children are safe. Exposing them to undue extremes of weather or risk of injury through unsafe equipment.

**Sexual abuse** – Inappropriate physical contact (supporting, treating or touching).

**Emotional** – Constant criticism, bullying, unrealistic pressure to perform at a level clearly above that attainable.

**Bullying** – Deliberately hurtful behaviour, physical, verbal and emotional. This can include hitting, kicking, racist/sexist remarks, name calling, isolation of individuals from their peer group. Can be direct, text messaging, e-mail etc. (This could be from the child's peer group OR from an external source).

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### **General guidelines to follow:**

- Always be public and open when working with children
- Avoid situations where you and a child are completely unobserved
- Work in pairs. For example in a dressing room or treatment room or when working in a remote area
- When working with mixed teams, ensure that there is also an adult female present
- Never engage in rough or physical games, including horseplay, with children in your care.
- Never use inappropriate comments or language to children
- Never do things of a personal nature for a child if he/she is perfectly capable of doing it himself/herself.

### **As a general rule, it does not make sense to:**

- Take children on car journeys, however short, alone
- Take children to your home, where they will be alone with you

***If you accidentally hurt, touch, distress, or cause a child to misinterpret your actions – report the incident as soon as possible to a colleague and make a written not of the incident.***

**Never Leave Yourself Open to Accusations**

### **The FA Safeguarding Children Policy**

Every child or young person, defined as any person under the age of 18, who plays or participates in football should be able to take part in an enjoyable and safe environment and be protected from abuse. This is the responsibility of every adult involved in football, thus every club is required to endorse and adhere to The Association's Safeguarding Children policy.

The FA recognises its responsibility to safeguard the welfare of all children and young people by protecting them from physical, sexual or emotional harm and from neglect or bullying. The FA is committed to working to provide a safe environment for all children and young people to participate in the sport to the best of their abilities for as long as they choose to do so. The Safeguarding Children Policy is supported by The FA's Respect programme to address verbal abuse and bullying of youngsters by parents and coaches on the sidelines.

The Association's Safeguarding Children policy principles are that:

- 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, faith or sexual orientation
- All suspicions and allegations of abuse will be taken seriously and responded to swiftly and appropriately
- Working in partnership with other organisations, children and young people and their parents and carers is essential.

The FA is committed to working in partnership with the Police, Children's Services Departments, and Local Safeguarding Children's Boards (LSCB) in accordance with their procedures. This is essential to enable these organisations to carry out their statutory duties to investigate concerns and protect all children and young people.

The Association's Safeguarding Children Policy is in response to government legislation and guidance, developed to safeguard the welfare and development of children and young people.



*Kirk Deighton Rangers JFC*

**Contact Numbers**

**KDRJFC Safeguarding Children Officer:**

**Mark Unsworth:** [kdrjfc.safeguarding@gmail.com](mailto:kdrjfc.safeguarding@gmail.com)

Telephone: 01937 586791

Mobile: 07889 882029

**West Riding County FA Safeguarding Children Officer:**

**Paul Ratcliffe:** [paul.ratcliffe@wrcfa.com](mailto:paul.ratcliffe@wrcfa.com)

Telephone: 0113 282 23 58

[westridingfa.com/Governance/Safeguarding/](http://westridingfa.com/Governance/Safeguarding/)

Or post: West Riding County FA  
Fleet Lane  
Woodlesford  
Leeds  
LS26 8NX

**FA/NSPCC Helpline:**

0808 8005000 (24 hours)

Text 88858

or

email [nspcc.org.uk/](http://nspcc.org.uk/)

**The FA Safeguarding Team**

Any adult or young person with concerns about a colleague can 'whistle blow' by contacting

0844 980 8200 4787

**Police & Social Services:**

In an Emergency always dial **999**

**Police Child Protection Unit**

0113 241 3535

**Children & Young Peoples Call Centre**

0113 222 4403 (office hours)

Or

0113 240 9536 (out of hours - emergency)

**Wetherby Police**

For **Non Emergencies** dial **0845 606 0606**

**North Yorkshire Police**

For **Non Emergencies** dial **0845 606 0247**