

Safeguarding Children Policy Statement

Southend United Community & Educational Trust (SUCET) acknowledges its responsibility to safeguard the welfare of every child and young person who has been entrusted to its care. A child or young person is anyone under the age of 18 engaged in any Trust football activity. 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. SUCET recognises that this is the responsibility of every adult involved in our Trust. We are committed to working to provide a safe environment for all and we aim to achieve this by subscribing to The English Football League's (EFL) 'Guidance to Member Clubs and to The Football Association's (FA) Safeguarding Children Policy and Procedures and endorse and adopt the Policy statement contained in that document.

The Key Principles of the FA Safeguarding Policy 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, race, sexual orientation, faith or belief.
- 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/carers is essential.

SUCET 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 and bullying. It is noted and accepted that The Football Association's Child Protection 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/trust tours, club/trust official, football coach or medical staff.

The purpose of the policy is to:

- Provide children and young people with a safe environment whilst in the care of SUCET staff /volunteers. Ensure all staff/volunteers are aware of how to make informed and confident responses to specific safeguarding children issues. Promote best practice at all times and increase awareness of Respect.
- Ensure all staff/volunteers are alert to signs of behavioural change/abuse and that all suspicions and allegations of abuse are taken seriously and responded to swiftly and appropriately.
- Work in partnership with other organisations, parents/carers to safeguard and promote the welfare of children and young people.
- Ensure all parents are made aware of SUCET Safeguarding Children Policy and the fact that cases may be referred to the external Statutory Agencies or to The FA if necessary.

We will seek to safeguard children and young people by:

- Valuing them, listening to and respecting them.
- Adopting child protection guidelines through procedures and by the implementation of code of conduct s for players, parent, carers and staff. The Trust has clear actions it will take regarding repeated or serious misconduct at Trust level.
- Endorsing and adopting the FA Responsible Recruitment guidelines for recruiting staff and volunteers.
- Proactively increasing awareness of safeguarding children and best practice with children, parents, carers, staff and volunteers.
- Sharing information about concerns with agencies that need to know and involving parents and children accordingly. Providing effective support for staff through supervision and training.

We are committed to reviewing our Policy and Procedures annually or within six weeks of the outcome of any serious incident.



All current Southend United Community & Educational Trust members working in eligible roles, with children and young people – such as coaches are required to hold an in-date FA accepted Enhanced CRC with Barring List check as part of responsible recruitment practice.

If there are concerns regarding the appropriateness of an individual who is already involved or who has approached us to become part of SUCET guidance will be sought from the Football Association. It is noted and accepted that the Football Association 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 interest 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' in football.