

BRENTFORD FOOTBALL CLUB

Children, Young People and Vulnerable Adults Matchday Safeguarding/ Protection Policy Statement

a) Policy Statement

Brentford Football Club recognises and accepts it has a duty of care to safeguard all children, young people and vulnerable adults who enter its stadium from harm. All children and young people have a right to protection, and the needs of disabled children and others who may be particularly vulnerable must be taken into account. Brentford Football Club will ensure to the best of its abilities the safety and protection of all children on its premises through the adherence to its Child Protection Policy.

A child is defined as a person under the age of 18 (The Children Act 1989).

b) Key Policy Principles

The key policy principles underpinning this statement are that:

- The welfare of children and young people is, and must always be, the paramount consideration
- All children, young people and vulnerable persons have a right to be protected from abuse regardless of their age, gender, disability, culture, language, racial origin, religious belief or sexual identity
- All suspicions and allegations of abuse will be taken seriously and responded to swiftly and appropriately
- Working in partnership with children, young people and their parents/carers is an essential part of our work

c) Policy aims

The aim of Brentford Football Club Child Protection Policy is to promote good practice by:-

- Providing children and young people with appropriate safety and protection whilst in the care of the club
- Allow all staff (full time/part time/casual or volunteers) to make informed and confident responses to specific child protection issues

d) Good Practice Guidelines

It is recognised that Football Clubs attract large numbers of children and young people to their premises and therefore it is essential that all personnel conduct themselves in an exemplary manner in order to protect children and themselves and the club from any false allegations. The following are examples of good practices which should be followed in order to create a positive culture and climate:-

Safeguarding Liaison Officers – Brentford Football Club has the following Safeguarding Liaison Officers (Allan Steele, Amy Crook and Dave Gregg) and a Club Safeguarding Officer (Barney McGhee). When specifically required they will attend matchday incidents as advised by the matchday Safety Officer.

The Club reserves the right to refuse admission to the ground of any child under the age of 11 years unless accompanied by an older person or adult who has responsibility for the care, protection and supervision of that child. Brentford Football Club's responsibility towards the child begins from the moment the child enters the ground and ends when the child leaves the ground.

Any child that fails to abide by the Club's Ground Regulations may be ejected from the ground along with the person who has responsibility for that child's actions. No child shall be separated or ejected from the ground without the person responsible for its safety. If necessary a child may be removed to a place of safety or a more suitable environment without adequate supervision by match day personnel, until other arrangements can be put in place for its longer term supervision.

Stewards and Club staff will be trained in accordance with this policy and will always work in pairs when dealing with children, so they can corroborate what was said, done or heard in the event of an allegation of improper behaviour by a steward/ staff member.

Stewards must show maximum tolerance when dealing with children. Physical restraint must only be used as the very last resort, and then only to prevent the child from harming him or herself, or harming others, or damaging property. It should never be used just to move a child from one position to another. Even in the rare event of a steward needing to separate two fighting children, minimum force only may be used.

Only in the most extreme cases of misbehaviour will it be considered necessary to remove a child from the stadium. In such cases the parent/carer accompanying the child must also leave the stadium. If they refuse to do so, they should be allowed to remain, though under strict supervision, and informed that they could be subject to a Club banning order.

Children under 14 who have travelled to the stadium alone must not be removed from the stadium. If his/her behaviour is so extreme as to cause actual or potential harm, they should be taken to a place of safety within the stadium complex, as dictated by the Safety Officer. The place of safety must have access to toilet facilities and a telephone. Parents/guardians/carers must be contacted immediately and asked to collect their child from the stadium as soon as possible. The child must be released into the care of an adult even if this means waiting until after the end of the match. The child must be accompanied by at least two stewards throughout the procedure. If the child is female, at least one of the stewards must be female.

Babes in arms, infants and young children will only be allowed into the ground on match days, subject to the above conditions and the club's admissions policy.

Even though the club endeavours to ensure as safe an environment as possible, the above arrangements do not detract from the fact that the accompanying adult is ultimately responsible where they spectate from for the safety and welfare of the infant whilst in the ground.

However, care should be taken to advise spectators with babes in arms, infants or young children as to the health and safety of that child when considering purchasing tickets in areas that are potentially higher risk, e.g. behind a goal or in the lower tiers of the stadium. (a separate 'Babes in Arms Policy document is maintained by the Safety Officer and retained within the Operations Safety File).

Summary

All Club employees, officials and stewards have a duty of care towards spectators and others attending the Stadium.

This duty of care must be exercised with particular vigilance when dealing with children, and must be equal at least to that which would be expected of a responsible parent. It must also be remembered that strict adherence to the child protection policy will not only ensure the safety and welfare of our younger spectators, but also protect the integrity of our stewards and our stewarding operation.

This document is reviewed annually by the Safety Officer and retained on the shared drive 'Operations Safety File/Safeguarding Policy'. A hard copy is also retained in the matchday Control Room.

Barney McGhee
Safety & Security Officer
Brentford Football Club.
Dated: 22 February 2017

Amended May 2018