STEVENAGE FOOTBALL CLUB

Club Safeguarding Policy Amendment- Covid 19

#WeAreStevenage

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This amendment should be read in conjunction with the Club Safeguarding Policy, Staff Code of Conduct and Player Behaviour Policy.

Club statement

The way in which our football Club is currently operating in response to coronavirus (COVID-19) is fundamentally different to business as usual, however, a number of our important safeguarding principles remain the same:

- with regard to safeguarding, the best interests of children will always continue to come first
- if anyone has a safeguarding concern about any child connected to the Club they should continue to act and act immediately
- a Designated Safeguarding Officer or Deputy will always be available
- unsuitable people are not allowed to enter the Club workforce and/or gain access to children
- children continue to be protected when they are online

Club Safeguarding Contacts:

During the Covid-19 lockdown period the Safeguarding contacts for the Club are as follows:

Chief Executive / Senior Safeguarding Manager: Alex Tunbridge

alext@stevenagefc.com / 01438 223223

Remember that in an emergency or where there is risk to life you should contact the police immediately.

Other Safeguarding Contacts in Football:

Whilst any safeguarding concern should be raised with the Club Safeguarding contacts in the first instance we recognise that this may not always be possible or appropriate. Below are the contact details for footballing partners with whom safeguarding concerns in relation to the Club can be discussed:

The English Football League Safeguarding Team

Tel: 01772 325940

Email: safeguarding@efl.com

If they concern regards a person in employed in footballs conduct towards a child:

The FA Safeguarding Team

Tel: 0800 169 1863

Email: Safeguarding@TheFA.com

Procedures and Safety Measures for Online Learning:

The Club expects all staff and players to adhere to the relevant policy boundaries must be maintained at all times. We have put extra measures in place to reduce the risks in relation to online learning which include:

- All contact online being observable and interruptible
- Staff and children must wear suitable clothing as should anyone else in the household
- Any computers being used should be in appropriate areas, for example not in bedrooms and the background should not be blurred
- Online teaching will not be carried out on a one to one basis and will be done in a group setting with several players present,
- Another adult will be invited to be present in the room
- All communication provided will have an educational purpose
- Language must be professional and appropriate, including any family members in the background
- The Club will record online teaching/instruction sessions. Players and parents will be informed that sessions are being recorded in advance of doing so.
- All sessions provided will be via the Clubs I.T platform (for example remote desktop) or Wi-Fi (where possible)

Mental Health

Negative experiences and distressing life events, such as the current circumstances, can affect the mental health of us all. Players who are struggling under the current circumstances should contact the Club safeguarding staff as outlined above. Support can also be accessed through a number of national organisations including:

The Samaritans	Tel: 116 123	https://www.samaritans.org
ChildLine:	Tel: 0800 1111	https://www.childline.org.uk
NSPCC:	Tel: 0808 800 5000	https://www.nspcc.org.uk
Mind:	Tel: 0300 123 3393	https://www.mind.org.uk
PFA:	Tel: 07500 000 777	https://www.thepfa.com/wellbeing

Online safety

It is important that internet safety and security messages are re-enforced during this time when we are expecting young people to be online more often. They may also be increasing their usage on devices during their own free time during this lockdown period. It is important that both players and parents are aware of the help and support available should they be concerned about something they have seen or experienced online. These include:

UK Safer Internet Centre	https://reportharmfulcontent.com/
CEOP	https://www.ceop.police.uk/safety-centre/
Internet Matters	https://www.internetmatters.org/

NetAware	https://www.net-aware.org.uk/
ParentInfo	https://parentinfo.org/
ThinkuKnow	https://www.thinkuknow.co.uk/