

Child Protection Policy for Camberley Chess Club

Purpose

The purpose of this document is to state the position of Camberley Chess Club with respect to child protection and provide guidelines for all members in this regard.

Background

There may be a time when a child approaches one of us, as a trusted adult, to discuss their life outside Camberley Chess Club. It is important that we know how to react to this in a sensitive and appropriate manner.

We Will:

- Hold a register of every child involved with the Chess Club including relevant medical details and have a contact name and telephone number close to hand in case of emergencies;
- Provide a copy of our Child Protection Policy to the parent(s) of all junior members of the club;
- Treat everyone with respect, encourage children to respect and care for others and provide an example we would wish others to follow;
- Remember that some issues are confidential and respect a child's right to personal privacy;
- Be aware that, someone else might misinterpret our actions even if they are well-intentioned;
- Take action to stop any inappropriate verbal or physical behaviour;
- Have a policy for the collection of children after club sessions have finished, when traveling to and from matches, tournaments or other related events;
- Remember to REFER **not** INVESTIGATE any suspicions or allegations about abuse;

We will, at all times:

- Acknowledge the age group that we work with;
- Never trivialise or exaggerate child abuse issues;
- Allow the child time to speak and not interrupt nor make suggestions to them that could imply making an investigation;
- Reassure the child that we are glad he or she has told what has happened and that it was right to tell;
- Not interrogate or question other than to clarify our understanding. If the matter is to be investigated further it will be so done by trained professionals. No matter how well we know the child, we will spare them having to repeat themselves over and over. Apart from anything else, the child may begin to think that we don't believe them;
- Be honest, tell the child that we cannot keep it a secret, we have to talk to someone else that can help;
- Remain calm, no matter how difficult it is to listen to the child. We must think of how hard it must be to say it. Some things are very difficult to talk about and we have been chosen because the child feels they can talk to one of us. If we show anger, disgust, disbelief then the child may stop talking for fear of upsetting us further or feel that our negative feelings are being directed towards them;
- Listen to the child - REALLY LISTEN - take what they say seriously. Tell them that they've done the right thing by telling you;
- As soon as practical write down everything the child told you, and remember that this is a confidential matter between yourself and the child;
- The only person this should be discussed with is the individual responsible for Child Protection within Camberley Chess Club who is the monitor for child protection issues;
- Maintain a club membership list showing which members hold currently valid Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) clearance.

Signed

On behalf of Camberley Chess Club

Dated