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## Safeguarding & Child Protection Policy

### 1. Statement of Intent

In the 2024 update of *Keeping Children Safe in Education (KCSIE)*, the definition of safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children has been updated in line with *Working Together to Safeguard Children (2023)*. This definition emphasises early intervention, protection from harm (both online and offline), and promoting the best outcomes for all children.

Safeguarding includes:

- Providing help and support to meet needs as soon as problems emerge
- Protecting children from maltreatment
- Ensuring children grow up in safe and effective care
- Taking action to enable the best outcomes for children

Future Stars Coaching is committed to building a 'culture of safety' in which children are protected from abuse, neglect, exploitation, and radicalisation.

We recognise that safeguarding concerns may occur both **in person and online**, including through mobile phones, social media, messaging platforms and other digital technologies.

### 2. Safeguarding Commitment

The Club will respond promptly and appropriately to all safeguarding concerns.

We comply with:

- Children Act 1989 & 2004
- Data Protection Act 2018
- UK GDPR
- Keeping Children Safe in Education (KCSIE)
- Working Together to Safeguard Children (2023)
- Local Authority Safeguarding Procedures

A Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL) is available at all times during sessions.

- DSL: Leanne Selman
- Deputy DSL: Frankie Hazeldine
- Additional DSLs: Fern Llewellyn and Emma Brooks-Dowsett

### 3. Scope

This policy applies to all children aged 4–13 attending our provision. Staff are trained to respond appropriately to the developmental, emotional, and social needs of children across all age groups.

### 4. Safeguarding in a Digital World (Online Safety)

Safeguarding includes protection from risks that arise through digital technology.

Children may be exposed to harm through:

- Mobile phones and smart devices
- Smart watches and wearable technology
- Messaging apps and group chats
- Social media platforms
- Online gaming and chat functions
- AI tools and generated content
- Livestreaming or video sharing
- Image-based abuse or sharing

Risks include:

- Cyberbullying and harassment
- Peer-on-peer abuse online
- Grooming and exploitation
- Sharing of inappropriate or sexualised content
- Exposure to harmful or extremist material
- Coercion or manipulation via messaging apps
- Unauthorised photography or recording

All digital safeguarding concerns must be treated as safeguarding incidents.

Staff must refer to the:

- Mobile Phones, Smart Technology & Digital Safety Policy
- Social Media Policy
- Photography, Video & Image Use Policy

## 5. Child Abuse and Neglect

(unchanged core definitions retained)

Child abuse includes:

- **Emotional abuse**  
Persistent emotional maltreatment causing adverse effects on emotional development.
- **Physical abuse**  
Deliberate physical harm including hitting, shaking, poisoning, or fabricated illness.

- **Sexual abuse**  
Forcing or enticing a child into sexual activity, including online or non-contact forms.
- **Neglect**  
Failure to meet basic physical and emotional needs.

## 6. Signs of Abuse and Neglect

Signs may include:

- Behavioural changes
- Unexplained injuries
- Deterioration in wellbeing
- Concerning comments from a child
- Concerns about home environment
- Indicators of online harm or digital exploitation
- Inappropriate behaviour by adults or peers

## 7. If Abuse is Suspected or Disclosed

Staff will:

- Listen carefully and remain calm
- Reassure the child
- Not ask leading questions
- Record factual information as soon as possible
- Report immediately to the DSL

## 8. Female Genital Mutilation (FGM)

FGM is a serious form of abuse and is illegal.

Staff receive training to identify risk indicators.

Any concerns must be reported immediately to the DSL.

## 9. Peer-on-Peer Abuse

Children may be harmed by other children, including through digital means.

Peer-on-peer abuse includes:

- Physical abuse
- Sexual violence or harassment
- Emotional abuse

- Online bullying and harassment
- Image-based abuse (including sharing images without consent)
- Coercion or pressure in group chats or messaging apps
- Exclusion or intimidation online

Staff must not dismiss behaviour as “normal”.

Concerns must always be escalated.

### **10. Extremism and Radicalisation (Prevent Duty)**

Children may be vulnerable to radicalisation due to:

- Isolation or loneliness
- Identity needs
- Mental health challenges
- Online influence or grooming
- Association with extremist content or individuals

Indicators may include:

- Changes in behaviour
- Viewing or sharing extremist content online
- Justification of violence
- Withdrawal or aggression

Concerns must be reported to the DSL immediately.

### **11. Court Orders and Collection of Children**

(unchanged but retained)

The safety and wellbeing of children is paramount. Where legal restrictions exist, the Club will act in accordance with court orders and safeguarding considerations.

### **12. Logging a Safeguarding Concern**

All concerns must be recorded using the Logging a Concern form and include:

- Date and time
- Child’s details
- Factual account (including child’s own words if disclosed)
- Name and role of staff member

Digital concerns must include any relevant online or device-related information.

### **13. Responding to Concerns**

The DSL will:

- Review all concerns
- Contact Social Care where appropriate
- Refer to Prevent Co-ordinator if required
- Contact Police in urgent situations

### **14. Digital Safeguarding Incident Handling (NEW SECTION)**

Where concerns involve mobile devices, online behaviour or digital content:

Staff must:

- NOT investigate independently
- NOT delete evidence
- NOT share images or messages
- Record factual information
- Report immediately to the DSL

The DSL will decide appropriate escalation, which may include:

- Parents/carers
- School safeguarding leads
- Social Care
- Police
- Prevent team

### **15. Allegations Against Staff**

All allegations will be:

- Recorded immediately
- Reported to the LADO and Ofsted where required
- Managed in line with safeguarding procedures

Suspension may occur if necessary pending investigation.

### **16. Promoting Awareness and Training**

The Club ensures:

- DSL and DDSL training is current and refreshed
- All staff receive safeguarding and Prevent training

- Online safety is included in safeguarding training
- Staff understand digital safeguarding risks
- Safe recruitment practices are followed

Staff are trained to understand:

- online risks
- peer-on-peer abuse
- safeguarding across digital platforms
- appropriate professional boundaries

### **17. Parental Engagement**

We maintain open communication with parents regarding safeguarding and encourage discussion of concerns.

### **18. Mobile Phones, Cameras and Digital Devices**

Photography and device use is governed by separate policies:

- Mobile Phones, Smart Technology & Digital Safety Policy
- Photography, Video & Image Use Policy

Children and staff must not use personal devices to take images during sessions unless explicitly permitted.

### **19. Safeguarding Contact Information**

(unchanged, retained as operational reference section)

Includes:

- Social Care
- LADO
- Police
- NSPCC
- Prevent contacts
- Ofsted

### **20. Policy Review**

This policy will be reviewed annually or sooner if:

- legislation changes
- safeguarding concerns arise

- operational changes occur
- technology risks evolve