**Harling Colts Football Club**

**Safeguarding Children Policy**

Harling Colts FC acknowledges its responsibility to safeguard the welfare of every child and young

person who has been entrusted to its care and is committed to working to provide a safe

environment for all members. A child or young person is anyone under the age of 18 engaged in

any Club football activity. We subscribe to The Football Association’s Safeguarding Children -

Policy and Procedures and endorse and adopt the Policy Statement contained in that document.

The key principles of The FA Safeguarding Children 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, culture, language, racial origin, religious beliefs or sexual orientation

• 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.

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.

Harling Colts FC recognises that this is the responsibility of every adult involved in our club.

Harling Colts FC 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 or bullying. It is noted

and accepted that The Football Association’s Child Protection Regulation (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 tours, football coach, club official or medical staff.

We endorse and adopt The FA’s Responsible Recruitment guidelines for recruiting volunteers

and we will:

• Develop a role profile

• Request identification documents

• As a minimum meet and chat with the applicant(s) and where possible conduct interviews

before appointing

• Request and follow up with two references before appointing

• Require an FA CRC Unit Enhanced Disclosure where appropriate in line with FA guidelines.

All our current members who are regularly caring for, supervising, training or being in sole charge

of children and young people will be required to complete a CRB Enhanced Disclosure via the FA

CRC Unit. If there are concerns regarding the appropriateness of an individual who is already

involved or who has approached us to become part of our club, guidance will be sought from The

Football Association. It is noted and accepted that The FA will consider the relevance and

significance of the information obtained via The FA CRC Unit Enhanced CRB Disclosure and that all

decisions will be made in the best interests 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’ within football.

Please note: The policy on CRB Enhanced Disclosures will be subject to change, in light of the

Protection of Freedoms Act 2012. Further information will be provided on this via TheFA.com and

via the County FA Welfare Officers.

Harling Colts FC supports The FA’s Whistleblowing Policy.

Any adult or young person with concerns about a colleague can ‘whistle blow’ by contacting The

FA Safeguarding Team on 0844 980 8200 4787, by writing to The FA Case Manager at The Football

Association, Wembley Stadium, PO Box 1966, London SW10 9EQ or alternatively by going direct to

the Police, Children’s Social Care or the NSPCC.

Our club encourages everyone to know about this information and utilise it if necessary.

Harling Colts FC has appointed a Club Welfare Officer (CWO) in line with The FA’s role profile and

required completion of the Safeguarding Children and Welfare Officers Workshop. The post holder

will be involved with Welfare Officer training provided by The FA and/or CFA. The CWO is the first

point of contact for all Club committee members regarding concerns about the welfare of any

child or young person. The CWO will liaise directly with the CFA Welfare Officer and will be familiar

with the procedures for referring any concerns. They will also play a proactive role in increasing

awareness of Respect, poor practice and abuse amongst their Club members.

We acknowledge and endorse The FA’s identification of bullying as a category of abuse. Bullying of

any kind is not acceptable in our league. If bullying does occur, all players or parents/carers should

be able to tell and know that incidents will be dealt with promptly. Incidents need to be reported

to the CWO or alternatively, in cases of serious bullying, we may contact the CFA Welfare Officer.

Respect codes of conduct for Players, Parents/Spectators, Officials and Coaches have been

implemented by our Club. To validate these Respect codes of conduct the Club has clear

actions it will take regarding repeated or serious misconduct at Club level and acknowledges the

possibility of potential sanctions which may be implemented by the CFA in more serious

circumstances. All registering members will be required to adopt the Respect codes.

Reporting your concerns about the welfare of a child or young person - Safeguarding is everyone’s

responsibility. If you are worried about a child it is important that you report your concerns - no

action is not an option.

• If you are worried about a child then you need to report your concerns to the CWO

• If the issue is one of poor practice they will either:

A. Deal with the matter themselves or

B. Seek advice from the CFA Welfare Officer

• If the concern is more serious - possible child abuse - they will, where possible, contact the CFA

Welfare Officer first, then immediately contact the Police or Children’s Services.

• If the child needs immediate medical treatment take them to a hospital or call an ambulance and

tell them this is a child protection concern. Let your CFA Welfare Officer know what action you

have taken

• If at any time you are not able to contact your Club Welfare Officer or the matter is clearly

serious then you can either:

A. contact your CFA Welfare Officer directly

B. contact the Police or Children’s Social Care

C. call the NSPCC 24 hour Helpline for advice on 0808 800 5000 or text 88858 or email

help@nspcc.org.uk

Please note: The FA’s Safeguarding Children Policy and Procedures is available via

www.TheFA.com/Footballsafe.Click on the ‘downloads’ under Policy and Procedures. It outlines in

detail what to do if you are concerned about the welfare of a child and includes flow diagrams to

describe this process. This is also covered within the Safeguarding Children workshop, where

participants are given the opportunity to discuss how this feels and how best they can prepare

themselves to deal with such a situation.

The FA Safeguarding Children general enquiry line 0845 210 8080