



Safeguarding Policy for Ace Sports Coaching.

Location: Ace Sports

Policy Created By: Nick McGowan

Policy Date: September 2024

Review Date: September 2025

1. Policy Statement

At Ace Sports Coaching, the safety and welfare of all children and young people in our care is our top priority. We are committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children by providing a safe, nurturing, and supportive environment. This policy outlines our procedures to protect children from harm, abuse, and neglect while they participate in our childcare and sports activities.

2. Aims and Objectives

- **Protect Children:** To safeguard children from abuse, neglect, exploitation, and any other harm.
- **Promote Well-being:** To ensure children's physical, emotional, and mental well-being.
- **Raise Awareness:** To educate staff, parents, and children about safeguarding issues and their responsibilities.
- **Provide Clear Procedures:** To establish clear reporting and response procedures for safeguarding concerns.

3. Legal Framework

This policy is guided by the following UK legislation and statutory guidance:

- The Children Act 1989 and 2004
- Working Together to Safeguard Children 2018
- Keeping Children Safe in Education 2023
- The Education Act 2002
- The Childcare Act 2006
- The Safeguarding Vulnerable Groups Act 2006
- The Data Protection Act 2018 and UK GDPR

4. Roles and Responsibilities

4.1 Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL)

- **Role:** The DSL is responsible for overseeing safeguarding within the organisation, including managing concerns, referrals, and safeguarding training.
- **Name:** Amber Bagshaw
- **Contact Information:** admin@acesportscoaching.co.uk

4.2 Deputy Designated Safeguarding Lead (DDSL)

- **Role:** The DDSL supports the DSL and acts in their absence.
- **Name:** Nick McGowan
- **Contact Information:** admin@acesportscoaching.co.uk

4.3 All Staff

- **Responsibility:** All staff have a responsibility to safeguard children, including reporting concerns and promoting a safe environment.
- **Training:** Staff must complete regular safeguarding training and be familiar with the safeguarding policy and procedures.

4.4 Management

- **Oversight:** The management team is responsible for ensuring that the safeguarding policy is effectively implemented and reviewed regularly.

5. Recognising Signs of Abuse

5.1 Types of Abuse

- **Physical Abuse:** Deliberate harm to a child, such as hitting, shaking, or causing physical injury.
- **Emotional Abuse:** Persistent emotional maltreatment, such as bullying, belittling, or making a child feel worthless.
- **Sexual Abuse:** Involvement of a child in sexual activities, including exploitation or grooming.
- **Neglect:** Failure to meet a child's basic needs, such as food, shelter, clothing, and medical care.

5.2 Indicators of Abuse

- **Physical Signs:** Unexplained bruises, cuts, or injuries; frequent absences from the setting.
- **Behavioural Signs:** Sudden changes in behaviour, fearfulness, aggression, withdrawal, or anxiety.
- **Emotional Signs:** Low self-esteem, excessive need for attention, or fear of certain people or places.

Staff should be vigilant and report any concerns about a child's well-being, even if the signs are subtle or unclear.

6. Reporting and Responding to Concerns

6.1 Immediate Action

- If a child is in immediate danger or at risk of harm, staff must act without delay by contacting the DSL or DDSL.
- If neither the DSL nor DDSL is available, staff should contact local children's social care services directly or the police if necessary.

6.2 Reporting Concerns

- **Step 1:** Any staff member with concerns about a child's welfare must report it to the DSL or DDSL as soon as possible.
- **Step 2:** The staff member must complete a written record of the concern using the organisation's safeguarding report form, including the date, time, and details of the concern.
- **Step 3:** The DSL/DDSL will assess the information and decide on the appropriate action, which may include monitoring, further investigation, or referral to external agencies.

6.3 Confidentiality

- All safeguarding concerns must be treated with the utmost confidentiality. Information should only be shared with those directly involved in the safeguarding process.
- Records of safeguarding concerns will be stored securely and only accessible to authorised personnel.

7. Referrals to External Agencies

7.1 Local Authority Children's Social Care

- If the DSL/DDSL determines that a referral to children's social care is necessary, they will contact the local authority children's services and follow their guidance.
- Referrals should be made promptly, and in urgent cases, by phone, followed by a written referral within 24 hours.

7.2 Escalation Procedures

- If a staff member believes that the appropriate action has not been taken following a concern, they must escalate the issue to senior management or directly to children's social care.

7.3 Allegations Against Staff

- Any allegations of abuse against a staff member must be reported immediately to the DSL or management team.

- The staff member involved may be suspended while the investigation is conducted to ensure the safety of the children.
- The Local Authority Designated Officer (LADO) will be informed of any allegations against staff, and the organisation will cooperate fully with any investigations.

8. Safe Recruitment Practices

- **Enhanced DBS Checks:** All staff, volunteers, and contractors working directly with children must undergo an enhanced Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) check before commencing employment.
- **References:** At least two references must be obtained and verified for all new hires.
- **Interviews:** Recruitment interviews will include questions designed to assess the candidate's suitability for working with children and their understanding of safeguarding.
- **Ongoing Monitoring:** Staff are required to disclose any changes to their criminal record or circumstances that may affect their suitability to work with children.

9. Training and Awareness

- **Induction:** All new staff will receive safeguarding training as part of their induction, covering the safeguarding policy, recognising signs of abuse, and reporting procedures.
- **Ongoing Training:** Regular safeguarding training will be provided to all staff, ensuring they are up to date with the latest guidelines and best practices.
- **Child Protection Awareness:** Staff will also be trained to educate children on how to protect themselves, including understanding their rights and recognising unsafe situations.

10. Online Safety

- **Supervision:** Children's use of online platforms during activities will be supervised, ensuring they access only age-appropriate and safe content.
- **Education:** Staff will educate children about online safety, including the risks of sharing personal information, interacting with strangers, and cyberbullying.
- **Monitoring:** Any online content or communication that raises concerns will be reported immediately to the DSL/DDSL for investigation.

11. Partnership with Parents and Carers

- **Open Communication:** We encourage open and honest communication with parents and carers regarding their child's welfare and any safeguarding concerns.
- **Information Sharing:** Information about the safeguarding policy and procedures will be shared with parents/carers during registration and made available on our website.
- **Involvement in Policy Review:** Parents/carers will be invited to contribute to the review of this safeguarding policy and provide feedback on its effectiveness.

12. Monitoring and Review

This safeguarding policy will be reviewed annually or sooner if there are changes in legislation, guidance, or circumstances. The review will assess the effectiveness of the policy and procedures, and any necessary updates will be made to ensure the highest standard of child protection.

Next Review Date: September 2025

Policy Reviewed By: Nick McGowan