

Garsington FC Youth Football Safeguarding Key Facts

- The child's welfare is, and must always be, the paramount consideration
- The FA's program on ensuring children enjoy football and have fun is called **PlaySafe**
- The FA have launched a new campaign called **Enough is Enough** to stamp out *swearing, aggressive shouting and persistent arguing among spectators, players and officials*. See <https://bit.ly/FA-EnoughIsEnough> for full details
- Referees wearing yellow respect armbands are children and subject to the same safeguarding guidelines as youth players. The FA will strongly penalise all Clubs whose spectators verbally or physically abuse these refs
- The FA are focusing their safeguarding approach on the following 3 areas
 - **Best practice** Safeguards are upheld **everyone takes responsibility** for keeping children safe
 - **Poor practice** Safeguards are broken or not followed. This must be addressed to prevent poor practice becoming abuse and harming children
 - **Abuse** A child is at risk of being harmed. Action must be taken immediately. In an emergency call the police
- The FA defines abuse in 5 different categories:-
 - **Physical abuse** (e.g. hitting, shaking, kicking)
 - **Emotional abuse** (e.g. threats, taunts, silencing)
 - **Sexual abuse** (e.g. inappropriate touching, exposure to sexual acts, showing them pornography)
 - **Neglect** (e.g. letting a child go hungry, failing to get them medical attention, leaving children unsupervised or in danger)
 - **Bullying** (e.g. unwanted behaviour towards a child, cyberbullying, discrimination)
- Safeguarding is not only about preventing abuse, it is also ensuring that the child's mental welfare is maintained by fostering an atmosphere of inclusivity and positivity. This applies to all under 18-year-olds, including players on both teams, referees and other officials
- Reporting concerns:
 - If your concern relates to potential poor practice, try to raise it positively and constructively. Most volunteers are part of football to help children have fun. However, it's OK to challenge something you think isn't right. You should also say something if the behaviour of another parent is worrying you
- How to report:
 - Speak to your Club Welfare Officer – **Jason Sammut** at GarsingtonFC-CWO@outlook.com
 - Talk to your County FA – **Nigel Saverton** at Safeguarding@OxfordshireFA.com
 - Contact the FA at safeguarding@thefa.com
 - Call the **NSPCC Helpline** on **0808 800 5000**
 - Call the **Police** or **Social Services** if a child is in immediate danger
- Why not complete the Parents safeguarding course <https://bit.ly/playsafe2022>
- **REMEMBER:** Safeguarding is **EVERYONE'S** responsibility
 - Add the following numbers into your contacts:
 - **Childline: 0800 1111 / NSPCC: 0808 800 5000**