

CAMBRIDGE JUNIOR CHESS & GO CLUB

SAFEGUARDING POLICY

VERSION 2.0, UPDATED 2023-09-13

INTRODUCTION

Cambridge Junior Chess & Go Club is committed to maintaining a culture in which children can play Chess and Go in an environment which protects their wellbeing and keeps them safe from harm. It aims to make club meetings and other events it organises enjoyable and fun and to ensure that children are safe, and that they feel safe and welcome. The rights, needs and dignity of the children are paramount.

CLUB RESPONSIBILITIES

The club aims to:

- Establish and maintain an ethos where children feel secure, are encouraged to take part in games of Chess and Go, and are listened to
- Provide children with equal opportunities to enter club competitions
- Ensure that children know that there are adults in the club who they can approach if they are worried or in difficulty
- Ensure that as far as possible an effective relationship is maintained with parents
- Make parents feel welcome to attend club meetings if they wish to

HEALTH AND SAFETY / RISK ASSESSMENTS

The club committee will regularly carry out a health and safety risk assessment which will be published on the club website. The committee will have responsibility for ensuring that necessary actions identified by the risk assessment are carried out in a timely manner. The committee will ensure that they are aware of any fire protection information provided by the venue and will communicate any necessary information or advice to members/parents.

ADULTS INVOLVED IN RUNNING THE CLUB / PROCESS FOR NEW VOLUNTEERS

The club will maintain a list of all adults who are involved in helping to run the club in any role. As well as committee members, this will include for example any volunteers who help with teaching at the club, any who help with the club's website, emails or social media, and any parents who assist regularly on the club front desk.

All new volunteers will be shown a copy of this policy and asked to confirm that they have seen it and will comply with it, and questions raised by the volunteer will be answered. This will form the club's initial training/instruction on safeguarding. Volunteers will be asked to refamiliarize themselves with the policy at a regular interval, not greater than 2 years.

All volunteers who are committee members, who may be the main supervisor of a meeting or who may be left unsupervised in the presence of children must be DBS checked, and the club must renew/recheck the DBS at a regular interval. Other volunteers may be asked to be DBS checked if they have regular contact with children.

Adults involved with running the club must:

- Treat everyone with respect, and respect children's rights to privacy
- Do their best to protect children's wellbeing from any reasonably foreseeable risk
- Deal with any concerns in a sympathetic and appropriate manner
- Encourage children to feel able to point out attitudes and behaviour that they do not like
- Avoid situations that compromise their relationship with young people
- Be mindful that others may misinterpret their actions, no matter how well-intentioned, and act with caution
- Recognise that children with differing abilities have different requirements
- Recognise that children from different backgrounds may have differing values

It is not acceptable to:

- Permit bullying, ridiculing and scapegoating
- Have any inappropriate physical contact with children
- Show favouritism to individual children
- Use inappropriate language
- Let any suspicion, disclosure or allegation of inappropriate behaviour go unrecorded or unreported

MEMBERSHIP DETAILS / INFORMATION RELEVANT TO SAFEGUARDING

The club's membership form covers the following areas. The stated wishes of the parent or guardian will be respected in all cases:

- Agreement with the parent or guardian about what may be done in the case of an emergency involving their child e.g. whether we have permission to take them to a doctor or hospital if appropriate
- Information on any relevant medical conditions
- Agreement with the parent or guardian about whether the club can record contact details for their child on a computer database
- Agreement with the parent or guardian about whether their child's picture may appear on the club website e.g. if they win a club competition

PHOTOGRAPHY

Taking photographs at club meetings or events is not normally allowed. If any photographs are to be taken e.g. for publicising the club, explicit consent must be obtained from parents/carers and this must make clear exactly how the photographs may and may not be used.

INCIDENTS: INAPPROPRIATE OR ABUSIVE BEHAVIOUR

Child protection is the responsibility of all adults. The role of the club in situations where there are child protection concerns is not to carry out investigations, but to recognise the situation and refer it to others.

If any adult at the club has any concerns about a child at the club, such as a concern that they have been the subject of inappropriate or abusive behaviour by another child or by an adult, they must inform one of the designated club organisers

The club organisers will then take appropriate action which in certain circumstances could involve contacting social services or the police.

Any incident where it is felt that a child has been subject to abuse, bullying or other inappropriate behaviour will be taken very seriously by the club.

The club will maintain a record of all such incidents and how they were investigated/resolved.

Any club volunteer who becomes aware of such an incident/allegation should:

- Listen carefully to what has been said and reassure the child/parent that their concerns are being taken seriously
- Write up and sign a note of exactly what took place, with the date and time
- Report it to the club committee as soon as possible