**SEPTEMBER 2023**



**Portishead Chess Club Child Protection Policy Statement**

Portishead Chess Club (PCC) seeks to promote and develop chess. It acknowledges the duty of care to safeguard and promote the welfare of children and young people aged up to

18 years and is committed to ensuring safeguarding practice reflects statutory responsibilities, government guidance and complies with best practice.

The policy recognises that the welfare and interests of children and young people are paramount in all circumstances as enshrined in the Children Act 1989. It aims to ensure that regardless of age, gender, religion or beliefs, ethnicity, disability, sexual orientation or identity, or socioeconomic background, all children:

* have a positive and enjoyable experience of chess in a safe and child centred environment.
* are protected from harm and abuse whilst participating in chess or outside of the activity. It also aims to provide club officials with the overarching principles that guide our approach to child protection.

PCC acknowledges that some children, including disabled children and young people or those from ethnic minority communities, can be particularly vulnerable to abuse and we accept the responsibility to take reasonable and appropriate steps to ensure their welfare. As part of our safeguarding policy the PCC will:

* Promote and prioritise the safety and wellbeing of children and young people.
* Value, listen to and respect children and young people.
* Ensure everyone understands their roles and responsibilities in respect of safeguarding and is provided with appropriate learning opportunities to recognise, identify and respond to signs of abuse, neglect and other safeguarding concerns relating to children and young people.
* Make clear who is the designated Safeguarding Officer and their role.
* Ensure appropriate action is taken in the event of incidents/concerns of abuse and support provided to the individual/s who raise or disclose the concern ensure that confidential, detailed and accurate records of all safeguarding concerns are maintained and securely stored.
* Prevent the involvement of unsuitable individuals.
* Ensure robust safeguarding arrangements and procedures are in operation.
* Share concerns with agencies who need to know, involving parents and children appropriately.

The policy and procedures will be widely promoted and are mandatory for everyone involved at PCC. Failure to comply with the policy and procedures will be addressed without delay and may ultimately result in dismissal/exclusion from the organisation.

Legal framework

This policy has been drawn up on the basis of law and guidance that seeks to protect children, namely:

* Children Act 1989
* United Convention of the Rights of the Child 1991 Data Protection Act 1998
* Sexual Offences Act 2003
* Children Act 2004
* Protection of Freedoms Act 2012
* Working Together to Safeguard Children (2015)

# Monitoring

The policy will undergo an annual review, or as necessitated by changes in legislation and/or government guidance, as required by the Local Safeguarding Children Board or PCC, and in response to any other significant changes or events.

The PCC Child Protection Policy is approved by the PCC Committee

Signed:

28/9/2023

Portishead Chess Club

The full English Chess Federation Policy and Procedures can be found at:

hAps://www.englishchess.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2020/09/ECF-SafeguardingPolicy-6.0-2.pdf

# How the above works in practice

At Portishead Chess Club (PCC) we prioritise safeguarding to create a safe and inclusive environment for everyone. Our approach involves the following measures:

1. We acknowledge that safeguarding is a shared responsibility, and we have a designated safeguarding officer whose contact details are accessible to all.
2. Whilst it is not a legal requirement, we do ask that our junior coaches undergo DBS checks
3. The safeguarding officer reviews our policy yearly to ensure it is in line with current legislation and assists new volunteer coaches in applying for DBS checks. If needed, the club covers the costs of voluntary DBS applications.
4. Our coaches are responsible for adequately supervising the children under their care, with the support of parents / designated adults. Parents of children under 11 are required to stay on-site during coaching sessions, and if all children are over 11, coaches will request other parents to stay and assist. This ensures the safety of both juniors and coaches.
5. During PCC organised tournaments / events coaches will ensure that, whenever possible, there is more than one adult present during activities involving children.
6. Our coaches provide structured chess instruction, guiding children in rules, strategies, tactics, and opening principles, while fostering a positive and encouraging atmosphere to boost confidence and interest in the game.
7. Our chess coaches may arrange intra-club tournaments or friendly matches to give children opportunities to test their skills, gain experience in competitive play, and develop good sportsmanship.
8. Our coaches emphasise fair play, good sportsmanship, and respect for opponents, encouraging children to be gracious in both victory and defeat.
9. Chess helps develop critical thinking and analytical skills, and our coaches actively promote these abilities in children by encouraging them to analyse positions and plan ahead.
10. We aim to create a social seeing where children can interact with like-minded peers, fostering positive interactions and teamwork to build lasting friendships.
11. PCC is committed to maintaining a safe and child-friendly physical environment.
12. Coaches keep parents informed about their children's progress and any upcoming events or tournaments via our club's parent WhatsApp group. Social network accounts are not used to contact young people, and under sixteens are not allowed access to our WhatsApp groups.
13. PCC club is dedicated to making sure everyone feels welcome, valued, and respected, no matter who they are or where they come from and treated fairly, regardless of their background, race, gender, or beliefs.
14. We operate a policy of limited data collection. Personal data is kept to a minimum and we only collect the necessary information required for the smooth functioning of the extra-curricular activities.
15. Children’s physical and mental well-being is at the discretion of the coach. If at any time, coaches believe that children are under duress either physically or mentally then they can intervene to stop play regardless of whether this is in a club coaching session or competitive tournament.
16. We present a Junior Chess Club report at our annual AGM, providing an opportunity for parents, coaches, and club members to engage with the junior activities.

Additionally, a dedicated parent representative ensures that parents have a voice within the club's committee.