

Gerrards Cross Chess Club - Child Protection Policy

Introduction

Gerrards Cross Chess Club (GXCC) is committed to providing a safe and nurturing environment for all children and young people participating in our activities. This Child Protection Policy outlines our commitment to safeguarding children, the responsibilities of our staff and volunteers, and the procedures we have in place to ensure the safety and well-being of all children.

Policy Statement

We believe that the welfare of children is paramount. All children, regardless of age, disability, gender, racial heritage, religious belief, sexual orientation, or identity, have the right to equal protection from all types of harm or abuse. We will take all reasonable steps to promote safe practice and to protect children from harm, abuse, and exploitation.

Definitions

- **Child:** Any person under the age of 18.
- **Child Protection:** Measures and structures to prevent and respond to abuse, neglect, exploitation, and violence affecting children.
- **Abuse:** Any action that intentionally harms or injures another person. This includes physical, emotional, sexual abuse, and neglect.

Responsibilities

- **President of GXCC:** Designated child protection officer for the club. Ensure the annual review and implementation of this policy.
- **Club Committee:** Ensure all club members, designated coaches and volunteers understand their responsibilities concerning child protection and are aware of the policy.
- **Chess Players and visitors:** Adhere to the child protection policy and report any concerns regarding child safety or welfare.
- **Parents and Guardians:** Support the club in promoting good practice and reporting any concerns about their child's welfare.

Code of Conduct

- Treat all children with respect and dignity.
- Always act in the best interests of the child.
- Maintain appropriate boundaries and avoid any behavior that could be misinterpreted by others.
- Avoid unnecessary physical contact unless required for the child's safety or as part of an activity (e.g., first aid).
- Do not engage in or tolerate any form of bullying, harassment, or discrimination.

Recruitment and Training

- **Recruitment:** All chess coaches shall be designated by the GXCC committee. All designated chess coaches shall be subject to standard checks by the UK Government Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS).
- **Training:** All designated coaches and members of the chess club shall be informed of their roll and responsibilities under this policy.
 - 2 DBS certified coaches shall be present for all Junior chess club sessions. Where only 1 DBS coach is available, then 1 or more parents/ adult shall be asked to supervise.
 - During senior sessions of the GXCC, including matches with other clubs, all members of the club shall follow the requirements of this policy statement. However, parents and/or legal guardians are responsible for the safety and wellbeing of their children. It is recommended that they supervise their children.
 - No child shall be left in a 1:1 situation with a Gerrards Cross Chess player or chess player from another chess club.
 - All senior members of the chess club shall be informed of this Policy on an annual basis at the club AGM. A copy of this policy shall be circulated with the agenda for the AGM.

Reporting Procedures

- **Recognizing Concerns:** Be vigilant for signs of abuse or neglect, such as unexplained injuries, changes in behaviour, or disclosures from the child.
- **Reporting Concerns:** Any concerns about a child's welfare must be reported immediately to the President of GXCC.
- **Designated Child Protection Officer:** The CPO is responsible for receiving and managing child protection concerns, ensuring they are documented and acted upon appropriately. This person is also the President of the Gerrards Cross Chess Club.
- **Confidentiality:** Information regarding concerns will be shared on a need-to-know basis to protect the child's privacy.

Responding to Disclosures

- Listen carefully and remain calm.
- Reassure the child that they have done the right thing by speaking up.
- Do not promise confidentiality; explain that you will need to share the information with the CPO to help keep them safe.
- Record the disclosure accurately and report it to the CPO immediately.

Monitoring and Review

- The child protection policy will be reviewed at least annually, but more often if there are changes in legislation or club activities, or if the committee feels it can be improved upon in the event of new guidance on best practice. Feedback from children, parents, staff, and volunteers will be sought to ensure the policy remains effective and relevant.
- Copies of DBS certificates shall be held by the club Secretary.

Contacts

- **Child Protection Officer:** President of GXCC – see web site; www.gerrardscrosschessclub.co.uk
- **GXCC Committee Members** – see GXCC web site.
- A copy of this policy shall be available to all on the GXCC web site.

Conclusion

GXCC is dedicated to ensuring the safety and well-being of all children involved in our activities. By adhering to this Child Protection Policy, we aim to create a secure environment where children can participate confidently and safely.

Date: 24 August 2024

Approved by: Tony Ganner (President and CPO of Gerrards Cross Chess Club).
