

44. Child Safeguarding Policy Statement

Policy statement

Every child has the right to protection from abuse and exploitation. Safeguarding - and the protection of all children - is everyone's responsibility. MCT believes that it is always unacceptable for any child to experience abuse of any kind; and recognises its responsibility to safeguard the welfare of all children by a commitment to practice which protects them. The safeguarding of children will be made possible by adhering to MCT's safeguarding policies, procedures and processes; and by working in partnership across the organisation - as well as with external organisations and statutory bodies.

MCT recognises and is committed to the following four principles to underpin effective safeguarding practice:	
1.	That the welfare of the child is paramount.
2.	That some children are additionally vulnerable because of the impact of previous experiences, their level of dependency, their communication needs and/or other issues surrounding disabilities.
3.	That working in partnership across the organisation (including with MCT's parent football club) - and with children, their parents and carers, as well as other external agencies and statutory bodies - is essential to effectively promote a child's welfare and safety.
4.	That 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, abuse and/or exploitation; and to this end MCT will ensure that its services are provided in a way that promotes equality and diversity, eliminates discrimination in all of its forms (ensuring that no one is excluded) and which respects the needs of each and every individual.

Purpose & aims of this policy

MCT believes that no child should ever experience abuse of any kind.

To this end, MCT has a responsibility to promote the welfare of all children and to keep them safe; and are committed to work in such a way that protects and safeguards them.

MCT has developed robust **Child Safeguarding Policies & Procedures** - contained within this **Safeguarding Handbook** - to establish the boundaries, guidelines and best practice for acceptable behaviour in relation to how the organisation and its staff will ensure the safety and welfare of all children - whether they be participants and/or beneficiaries.

Scope of this policy

MCT's **Children's Safeguarding Policies and Procedures** (as well as all other supplementary safeguarding resources) are designed to provide protection for the children who either receive and/or are the beneficiaries of the organisation's services.

To this end, MCT will provide all line managers and staff with the appropriate guidance on the safeguarding procedures and best practice they should adopt in the event that they suspect a child may be experiencing, or be at risk of, harm.

Who this policy applies to

This policy applies to everyone that comes into contact with MCT - including as applicable - the Trustees, the CEO and Executive Team, Senior Managers, the Management Team, Employees, Sessional Workers, Agency Staff, Contractors, Suppliers, Volunteers, Students on work experience, as well as anyone working on behalf of the organisation.

Safeguarding is everyone's responsibility!

Child Safeguarding Policy Statement continued...

MCT commits to the effective safeguarding of all children (that are participants, beneficiaries and/or are connected to MCT) through taking a child-centred approach to its responsibilities and by doing the following:

Child-Centred

- Valuing children by listening to and respecting them
- Taking children's wishes and feeling into account - both in regard to individual decisions that affect a child and in the development of services for them
- Adopting child protection guidelines (through relevant and appropriate safeguarding policies & procedures) as well as **Staff Codes of Conduct** - to ensure that MCT keep children safe and can respond to any concerns or allegations
- Developing and implementing an effective **Online Safety Policy** and related procedures
- Recruiting staff safely - ensuring all necessary checks are made
- Sharing information about child protection and good practice with children, parents, carers and staff
- Sharing information about concerns with agencies who need to know - and involving parents, carers and children appropriately
- Providing effective management for staff through supervision, support and training.

Principles of a child-centred approach: MCT will always seek to underpin its policy on safeguarding children by:

Principles

- Being **vigilant** and notice when things are troubling children
- **Understanding** what is happening - as well as hearing and understanding the child - and then **acting** upon that understanding
- Developing an on-going **stable** relationship of trust with children
- **Respecting** children and treating them with the expectation that they are competent, rather than assume they are not
- Providing **information** and **engagement** with children by keeping them informed about and involved in procedures, decisions, concerns and plans
- **Explaining** to children the outcome of assessments and decisions - as well as the reasons if their views have not met with a positive response
- **Support** children in their own right and not just as a member of their family
- Providing access to **advocacy** to assist children in putting forward their views
- **Involving** children and their parents and carers in developing and shaping safeguarding policies and procedures.

Reviewed & Updated: April 2026

MCT will review this **Child Protection Safeguarding Policy Statement** at least annually. In addition, more frequent reviews will be undertaken following a change in safeguarding legislation; following the implementation of a new activity or service which involves contact with children and/or adults at risk; following a safeguarding incident within the FCC (or one which directly concerns or affects the FCC); and/or following a significant organisational change.



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