

BELBROUGHTON CRICKET CLUB

ANTI BULLYING POLICY



Belbroughton Cricket Club is committed to providing a caring, friendly and safe environment for everyone so they can train, and play, in a relaxed and secure atmosphere.

Bullying of any kind is unacceptable at our club. If bullying does occur, all children should be able to tell someone, and know, incidents will be dealt with promptly and effectively.

Bullying hurts, everyone has a right to be treated with respect. In situations where children are bullying other children, this should be addressed immediately and their behaviour discussed with their parents.

We encourage anyone who knows or suspects that bullying is happening to speak to our Club Safeguarding Officer.

- All club staff and volunteers should know our policy on bullying and follow it when bullying is reported
- All children and parents/carers should be aware of our policy on bullying and what they should do if bullying occurs
- We take bullying seriously. Children and parents/carers should be assured they will be supported when bullying is report

What is bullying?

Bullying is intentional behaviour that hurts someone else. It can happen anywhere, including home, at cricket or online. It is usually a repeated behaviour and can hurt someone both emotionally and physically.

Bullying can be:

- Emotional: being unfriendly, excluding, tormenting (for example: hiding kit, or making threatening gestures, commenting negatively on performance)
- Physical: pushing, kicking, hitting, punching or any use of violence
- Racist: racial taunts, graffiti and/or gestures
- Sexual: unwanted physical contact or sexually abusive comments
- Homophobic: because of, or focusing on, the issue of sexuality
- Verbal: name-calling, sarcasm, spreading rumours and teasing
- Cyber: bullying behaviour online or via electronic communication (email, text, social media etc) Misuse of associated technology, such as camera and video facilities

Signs and symptoms

A child may indicate, by signs or behaviour, that they are being bullied. You should speak with the Club Safeguarding Officer if someone:

- Says they are being bullied
- Changes their usual routine
- Is unwilling to go to the club
- Becomes withdrawn anxious, or lacking in confidence

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- Comes home with clothes torn or belongings damaged
- Has possessions which are damaged or go missing
- Asks for money or starts stealing money (to pay the bully)
- Has unexplained cuts or bruises
- Is frightened to say what's wrong
- Gives improbable excuses for any of the above

In more extreme cases, a victim of bullying may:

- Displays anxious behaviours
- Cries themselves to sleep at night or has nightmares
- Becomes uncharacteristically aggressive, disruptive or unreasonable
- Is bullying other children or siblings
- Stops eating
- Attempts or threatens suicide, self harm
- Runs away

These signs and behaviours could indicate other problems, but bullying is a possibility and should be investigated.

Reporting and Responding

- Report any bullying incidents to the Club's Safeguarding Officer straight away.
- The bullying behaviour or threats of bullying will be investigated thoroughly.
- A plan will be implemented to support the victim whilst this investigation is ongoing. If the alleged bully is a child, consideration will be given to what support they might need.
- In cases of serious bullying, the incidents will be reported to the Safeguarding Team for advice via the County Safeguarding Officer.
- If bullying relates to a child, then parents should be informed and will be asked to come to a meeting to discuss.
- If necessary and appropriate, the police will be consulted.
- An attempt will be made to help the bully understand and address their bullying behaviour and how it impacts others.

In cases of adults reported to be bullying children, the County Safeguarding Officer will always be informed and will advise on the action to be taken.

Prevention

We will use 'Kidscape' recommended methods to help children prevent bullying. These may include:

- Developing a children's code of conduct
- Agreeing behaviour contracts
- Having discussions about bullying and why it matters

<https://www.kidscape.org.uk/>

Childline also offer advice on bullying 0800 11 11