



Market Deeping Cricket Club

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Anti-bullying Policy

Market Deeping Cricket Club (The Club) is committed to providing a caring, friendly and safe environment for all of our children so they can train and play in a relaxed and secure atmosphere.

Bullying of any kind is unacceptable at our club.

What is bullying?

Bullying is the use of aggression with the intention of hurting another person. Bullying results in pain and distress to the victim.

Bullying can take many forms :

- *Emotional*: being unfriendly, excluding, tormenting (e.g., hiding kit, or making threatening gestures)
- *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 and text, social media, etc.)
- *Misuse of technology*: such as camera and video facilities

Why is it important to respond to bullying?

Bullying hurts! No one should be a victim of bullying. Everyone has the right to be treated with respect. Children who are bullying also need to learn different ways of behaving.



Anti-bullying Policy (continued)



Signs and symptoms of Bullying

A child may indicate, by signs or behaviour, that he or she is being bullied. Adults should be aware of signs and investigate if a child:

- ④ Says they are being bullied
- ④ Changes their usual routine
- ④ Is unwilling to go to the Club
- ④ Becomes withdrawn anxious, or lacking in confidence
- ④ Comes home with clothes torn or belongings damaged
- ④ Has possessions which are damaged or go missing
- ④ Asks for money or starts stealing money (to pay the bully)
- ④ Has unexplained cuts or bruises
- ④ Is frightened to say what's wrong
- ④ Gives improbable excuses for any of the above

In more extreme cases, the child might:

- ④ Start stammering
- ④ Cry themselves to sleep at night or have nightmares
- ④ Become aggressive, disruptive or unreasonable
- ④ Start bullying other children or siblings
- ④ Stop eating
- ④ Run away
- ④ Attempt or threaten suicide

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

Procedures to be followed if Bullying is suspected

Report suspected bullying incidents to the Club Welfare Officer who will take appropriate action as follows:

- ④ The bullying behaviour or threats of bullying must be investigated and the bullying stopped quickly
- ④ Parents will be informed and invited to a meeting to discuss the problem
- ④ If necessary, and appropriate, the police will be consulted
- ④ An attempt will be made to help the bully (bullies) change their behaviour

In cases of serious bullying, the incidents will be reported to the ECB Safeguarding Team for advice via the County Welfare Officer

In cases of adults reported to be bullying cricketers under 18, the ECB Safeguarding Team will be informed via the County Welfare Officer and the Club will follow their advice on action to be taken