

Capel Cricket Club Anti-Bullying Policy

Statement of intent

We are committed to providing a caring, friendly, and safe environment for all children so they can train, and play, in a relaxed and secure atmosphere. | Bullying of any kind is unacceptable at Capel Cricket Club. If bullying does occur, all children should be able to tell, and know, incidents will be dealt with promptly and effectively. We are a TELLING club. This means anyone who knows bullying is happening is expected to tell someone who can do something about it.

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, for example hiding kit, making threatening gestures
- **Physical:** pushing, kicking, hitting, punching or any use of violence
- **Racist:** racial taunts, graffiti and/or gestures
- **Sexual:** unwanted physical contact, sexually abusive comments, sexually explicit images
- **Homophobic:** because of or focusing on the issue of sexuality
- **Verbal:** name calling, sarcasm, spreading rumours, teasing
- **Cyber:** bullying behaviour online or via electronic communication, email, text, social media etc, Misuse of associated technology such as camera or 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 need to learn different ways of behaviour.

Capel Cricket Club have a responsibility to respond promptly and effectively to any issues of bullying.

Objectives of this policy

- All adults and children at Capel Cricket Club should have an understanding of what bullying is
- All officials, coaching and non-coaching staff should know what the club policy is on bullying and what they should do if bullying arises
- As a club we take bullying seriously, Children and parents should be assured they will be supported when bullying is reported
- Bullying will not be tolerated

In cases of adults reported to be bullying cricketers under 18, the ECB must always be informed

Signs and symptoms

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:

- Says they are being bullied
- Changes their usual routine
- Is unwilling to go to the club
- Becomes withdrawn or anxious, or lacking in confidence
- 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 a bully
- Has unexplained cuts and bruises
- Is frightened to say what is wrong
- Gives improbable excuses for any of the above

In more extreme cases, the child:

- Starts stammering
- Cries themselves to sleep at night or has nightmares
- Becomes aggressive, disruptive, or unreasonable
- Is bullying other children or siblings
- Stops eating
- Attempts or threatens suicide or runs away

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

Procedures

- Report any concerns about bullying incidents to Capel Club Safeguarding Officer
- In cases of serious bullying, the incidents will be reported to the ECB Safeguarding Team for advice via the County Welfare Officer
- Parents should be informed and invited to a meeting to discuss the problem
- If necessary, and appropriate, police should be consulted, for example if there has been an assault, harassment, or theft
- The bullying behaviour or threats of bullying must be investigated, and the bullying stopped quickly

An attempt will be made to help the bully change their behaviour. Capel cricket club will develop their code of conduct to help prevent bullying.

