



Castlebar Celtic Youth's FC / Safeguarding Children Policy and Procedure

1. Castlebar Celtic FC acknowledges its responsibility to safeguard the welfare of every child and young person who has been entrusted to its care and is committed to working to provide a safe environment for all members. A child or young person is anyone under the age of 18 engaged in any club football activity.

2. The key principles of safeguarding children are that: -

- The child's welfare is, and must always be, the paramount consideration.
- All children and young people have a right to be protected from abuse regardless of their age, gender, disability, race, sexual orientation, faith or belief.
- All suspicions and allegations of abuse will be taken seriously and responded to swiftly and appropriately.
- Working in partnership with other organisations, children and young people and their parents / carers is essential.

We acknowledge that every child or young person who plays or participates in football should be able to take part in an enjoyable and safe environment and be protected from poor practice and abuse.

Castlebar Celtic FC recognises that this is the responsibility of every adult involved in the club to adhere to this Policy.

3. Castlebar Celtic Youth's FC has a role to play in safeguarding the welfare of all children and young people by protecting them from physical, sexual or emotional harm and from neglect or bullying. It is noted and accepted that Safeguarding Children Regulations applies to everyone in football whether in a paid or voluntary capacity. This means whether you are a volunteer, match official, helper on club tours, football coach, club official or medical staff.

4. We endorse and adopt recruitment guidelines for recruiting volunteers and we will: -

- Specify what the role is and what tasks it involves.
- Request identification documents.
- As a minimum meet and chat with the applicant(s) and where possible interview people before appointing them.

All current Castlebar Celtic FC members who are regularly caring for, supervising, training or being in sole charge of children and young people will be required to complete and gain clearance through a Garda Vetting process. In addition they will be required to have completed an FAI Child Safeguarding course. It is accepted that The FAI aims to prevent people with a history of relevant and significant offending from having contact with children or young people and the opportunity to influence policies or practice with children or young people. This is to prevent direct sexual or physical harm to children and to minimise the risk of 'grooming' within football.

5. Castlebar Celtic FC has appointed a Child Protection Officer. The Child Protection Officer is the first point of contact for all club members regarding concerns about the welfare of any child or young person. The Child Protection Officer will be familiar with the procedures for referring any concerns. They will also play a proactive role in increasing awareness of respect, poor practice and abuse amongst club members.



6. We acknowledge and endorse The FAI's identification of bullying as a category of abuse. Bullying of any kind is not acceptable at our club. If bullying does occur, all players or parents / carers should be able to tell and know that incidents will be dealt with promptly. Incidents need to be reported to the Child Protection Officer.

7. Codes of conduct for Players, Parents / Spectators, Officials and Coaches have been implemented by Castlebar Celtic FC. In order to validate these codes of conduct the club has clear actions it will take regarding repeated or serious misconduct at club level and acknowledges the possibility of potential sanctions which may be implemented by the FAI in more serious circumstances.

8. Reporting your concerns about the welfare of a child or young person. **Safeguarding is everyone's responsibility if you are worried about a child it is important that you report your concerns - no action is not an option.**

1. If you are worried about a child then you need to report your concerns to the Child Protection Officer.
2. If the issue is one of poor practice the Child Protection Officer will either: -
 - a. Deal with the matter themselves; or
 - b. Seek advice from the Castlebar Celtic Committee.
3. If the concern is more serious - possible child abuse, then the Child Protection Officer will immediately contact An Garda Siochana and Children's Services.
4. If the child needs immediate medical treatment take them to a hospital or call an ambulance and tell them this is a child protection concern. Let your Child Protection Officer know what action you have taken, they in turn will inform the relevant Body.
5. If at any time you are not able to contact your Child Protection Officer, or the matter is clearly serious then you can either: -
 - a. Contact Social Services; or
 - b. An Garda Siochana directly.

Contact Details:

Club Child Protection Officer : Aisling Reilly

087-9640379

