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| **Approved by** | **Version** | **Issue Date** | **Review Date** | **Contact Person** | **Comments** |
| S Galinson | 1 | July 2023 | July 2024 | A.Rasheed |  |
| S Galinson | 2 | 20/10/2023 | 20/10/2024 | P Lloyd | Senior Safeguarding Officer Contact Update |
| S Galinson | 3 | 20/10/2024 | 20/10/2025 | J Comper | Senior Safeguarding Officer Contact Update |

Child Friendly Policy

Safeguarding is EVERYONES Responsibility

*Gillingham FC is committed to the safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children, young people and adults at risk and expects all staff, volunteers and visitors to share this commitment. Safeguarding is everyone’s responsibility.*

**What is safeguarding?**

Safeguarding is about keeping all children and young people safe. This includes you.

Taking action to keep a person safe is known as ‘Child Protection’.

We may see or hear things, or you may tell us something and we will need to take action.

**Our belief**

We believe your health, safety and well-being are very important. We respect all young people (under 18) and all adults (over 18) and help protect their rights.

All children have equal rights to protection – regardless of gender, age, ethnicity, ability, sexual orientation, and religious or political beliefs.

**Our Aim**

We aim to keep all children safe, provide you a safe environment for all GFC activities and for you to be treated fairly and free from harm, discrimination or bullying.

Our staff have been trained to keep you safe.

You In order to keep everyone safe you are expected to:

• Respect other children and adults

• Listen and follow instructions

• Ask for help when you need it

• Take responsibility for your actions

• Be nice to and support others

• Accept differences and value diversity

• Tell us what you like and don’t like

• Not bully, be rude, or discriminate against others. This includes in person or on social media.

Misconduct will be dealt with by the coach.

Be heard If you want to give feedback or want to tell us something, you can speak to your coach or adult at GFC or email: safeguarding@priestfield.com

We will listen It is important to know you if you are unhappy about something or someone and need to get help you can:

• Talk to any coach

• Tell a friend and then go together to tell an adult

• Email the safeguarding officer: safeguarding@priestfield.com

• Contact Childline (24 hours): 0800 1111

• Contact the Police: 999 if someone is in immediate danger of harm

**Don’t bottle it up – speak out if someone is:**

• Saying things that upset you, does something that may cause you harm, or is bullying you.

• Sending nasty messages by phone or social media

• Threatening to send embarrassing photos of you to others, or asking for money/favours

• Touching you in ways you do not like (know the NSPCC underwear rules)

• Trying to give you cigarettes, alcohol, tablets, or drugs

• Hitting or hurting you or threatening to harm your family or friends

• We cannot keep secrets. If we need to protect you or someone else from harm, we will need to tell others who can help.

If this stops you speaking out – please call Childline: 0800 1111.

Childline is a service provided by the NSPCC.

**Useful Contacts:**

Asif Rasheed - Designated Safeguarding Officer - Arasheed@priestfield.com

Joe Comper – Senior Safeguarding Officer – Safeguarding@priestfield.com

Nick Farrell - Academy Player Care Manager - Nfarrell@priestfield.com

Bryan Bull - Academy Manager - Bbull@priestfield.com

Shannon Galinson – Senior Safeguarding Officer – Safeguarding@priestfield.com

**Web:**

[Safeguarding - Gillingham (gillinghamfootballclub.com)](https://www.gillinghamfootballclub.com/club/safeguarding/)