



## **Safeguarding Policy**

### **Halfspace Academy – Safeguarding Policy**

**Last reviewed:** September 2025

#### **1. Purpose**

Halfspace Academy is committed to providing a safe, positive, and supportive environment where every child and young person can enjoy football, grow in confidence, and reach their potential.

#### **2. Scope**

This policy applies to all Halfspace staff, coaches, volunteers, players, parents/carers, and visitors involved in our programmes, including training sessions, matches, events, and camps.

#### **3. Key Principles**

- The welfare of the child is paramount.
- All children have the right to equal protection from harm, abuse, or neglect.
- All suspicions and allegations of abuse will be taken seriously and responded to swiftly.
- Safeguarding is everyone's responsibility.

#### **4. Safer Recruitment**

- All staff and volunteers undergo **Enhanced DBS checks**.
- References are obtained and verified before appointment.
- Induction includes safeguarding, code of conduct, and emergency procedures.

#### **5. Training**

- All coaches complete **FA Safeguarding Children** training.
- Annual refresher training is mandatory.
- At least one staff member per session holds a valid **Emergency First Aid** certificate.

#### **6. Supervision**

- Ratios follow FA guidelines (e.g., U7–U8: 1:8, U9–U18: 1:12).
- Players are always supervised until collected by a parent/carer.
- Persistent late collection is logged and followed up.

#### **7. Reporting Concerns**

- Concerns should be reported immediately to the **Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL)**.
- DSL: Dee Afia – [safeguarding@halfspaceacademy.com](mailto:safeguarding@halfspaceacademy.com) – [Phone]
- If a child is at immediate risk, call **999**.

#### **8. Photography & Media**

- Parental consent is obtained for images/video.
- Media is used respectfully for coaching analysis and Halfspace communications only.

#### **9. Anti-Bullying & Equality**

- Halfspace has a **zero-tolerance approach** to bullying, harassment, and discrimination.
- Inclusion and respect are core values across all sessions.

#### **10. Review**

This policy is reviewed **annually** or when legislation or FA guidance changes.