

# SVCC Anti-Bullying Policy

The Children Act defines a child as a person under 18 years of age.

## Statement of intent:

Sevenoaks Vine Cricket Club (SVCC) are committed to providing a caring, friendly and safe environment for all of our children so they can train, and play cricket, in a relaxed and secure atmosphere. Bullying of any kind is unacceptable. 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, or making threatening gestures);
- **Physical:** pushing, kicking, hitting, punching or any use of violence;
- **Verbal:** any name-calling, sarcasm, spreading rumours and teasing;
- **Racist:** racist language or taunts, mocking customs, graffiti, and/or offensive gestures;
- **Sexual:** unwanted physical contact or sexually abusive comments; sexist language because of, or focusing on, any view of another persons sexuality;
- **Cyber:** bullying behaviour online or via electronic communication (email and text, social media, etc), misuse of associated technology, such as camera and video facilities, or sharing of photos to torment, harass, threaten, humiliate another.

## Why is it important to respond to bullying?

- Bullying is hurtful;
- 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;
- SVCC has a responsibility to respond promptly, and effectively, to issues of bullying.

## Objectives of this policy:

- All adults and children at SVCC should have an understanding of what bullying is;
- All officials, coaching and non-coaching staff should know what the SVCC policy is on bullying, and follow the right procedures when bullying is reported;
- All children and parents should know what the SVCC 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.

## Signs and symptoms

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

- Says they are being bullied;
- Changes their usual routine;
- Is unwilling to go to SVCC activities
- Becomes withdrawn, 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 the bully);
- Has unexplained cuts or bruises;
- Is frightened to say what's 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 must be investigated.

## SVCC Procedures:

- Report any concerns about bullying incidents to the Club Safeguarding Officers. In cases of serious bullying, the incidents will be reported to the ECB Safeguarding Team for advice via the County Safeguarding Officer;
- In cases of adults reported to be bullying cricketers under 18, the ECB must always be informed;
- Parents or carers must 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 assault, harassment or theft;
- The bullying behaviour or threats of bullying must be investigated and the bullying stopped quickly;
- An attempt should be made to help the bully (or bullies) to change their behaviour, where appropriate.

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