



## Knowsley St. Helens Schools' Football Association

### Responsible Use of Social Networking Sites Policy

#### Social Networking Sites Policy (Based on ESFA Guidance)

This policy provides guidance to help Associations meet their **safeguarding responsibilities** when using social networking platforms. It aims to protect children, young people, coaches, referees, and adults in positions of trust from inappropriate online behaviour and unfounded allegations.

#### Using Social Media to Communicate

If the Association chooses to use social media to communicate with young people, it is strongly recommended that:

- A dedicated account is created in the **Association's name**.
- The account should only be used by **nominated Association members, parents/carers**, and only for **football-related communication**, such as fixtures, cancellations, and team selection.

#### Responsibilities of Coaches and Officials

Coaches, referees, mentors, and Association officials are expected to conduct themselves responsibly both **on and off the pitch**, including their use of digital and social media platforms.

As a general rule, the **FA/ESFA advises against using social networking sites** as the main method of communication between coaches and players.

#### Supporting Young People

Coaches, parents/carers, and the Association Welfare Officer (CWO) should encourage children and young people to speak to a trusted adult if they ever receive messages that make them feel uncomfortable—especially if they are asked **not to tell a parent or carer** about the communication.

#### Monitoring and Oversight

The Association's social media account will be **regularly monitored** by the **Child Welfare Officer (CWO)**. Any user found to be acting inappropriately will have their access removed.

For any concerns or questions, please contact:

#### Mr. James

Malvern Primary School

Phone: **0151 477 8230**



[info@ksh-sfa.co.uk](mailto:info@ksh-sfa.co.uk)



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