

# ANTI-BULLYING POLICY STATEMENT

***Vale of Leithen FC*** is fully committed to safeguarding the wellbeing of all children in its care. We understand that children's wellbeing can be seriously impacted by bullying behaviour. ***Vale of Leithen FC*** therefore recognises the information provided for children by **respectme**, Scotland's Anti-Bullying Service: 'Bullying is never acceptable; it doesn't make a child better or stronger to get through it and it should never be seen as a normal part of growing up. Bullying is a behaviour that can make a child feel frightened, threatened, left out and hurt. Something only has to happen once to make a child feel worried or scared to go to school or other places they enjoy going'.

For the purposes of this policy a child is recognised as someone under the age of 18 years. This policy applies to all children regardless of age, gender, sexual orientation, disability, race, religion, socio-economic status or family circumstance.

***Vale of Leithen FC*** will:

- Respect the rights of children as paramount.
- Work together to develop positive relationships amongst children and adults which are mutually respectful, responsible and trusting; and promote their emotional health and wellbeing.
- Seek to prevent, reduce and respond effectively to bullying behaviour, through the implementation of this policy and guidelines.
- Require members of staff and volunteers to adopt and abide by this policy.
- Train, support and supervise its members of staff and volunteers to adopt best practice to prevent, reduce and respond to bullying.
- Address the needs of children who are bullied as well as those who bully within a framework of respect, responsibility, resolution and support.
- Respond to any concerns raised either in the experiences of children of poor practice/misconduct or abuse caused by an adult's bullying behaviour.
- Highlight bullying based on prejudice and perceived differences, to ensure our practices are effective in dealing with these issues.
- Regularly monitor and evaluate the implementation of this policy and guidelines and include children's views in this process.

## **Review**

This Policy and guidelines will be regularly reviewed and will include children's participation and feedback on the content and actual experience of implementation as part of the review:

- In accordance with changes in guidance on anti-bullying or following any changes within ***Vale of Leithen FC***.

- Following any issue or concern raised about bullying within **Vale of Leithen FC**.
- In all other circumstances, at least every three years.

Reviewed August 2020