## Welcome to Girton Colts (last update June 2023)

Girton Colts Football Club was formed in 1981 to provide football to local residents under 18 years old. We are a Football Association (FA) chartered standard youth football club, which means we abide by the rules of the FA, which also include child protection policies and procedures, code of conduct RESPECT programmes and their equal opportunities & anti-discrimination policies.

Our committee and the teams they represent are completely run by volunteers. We are all trained by the FA to ensure we remain affiliated to the FA, but also to ensure that we are a club that is run to a high standard whilst still being a grassroots village football club.

### Our Philosophy

The club exists to provide FA football match opportunities for all residents of Girton between the ages of 4-18 years old. We are an inclusive sporting club no matter your ability or gender. We only ask for commitment to the club and its rules, which if followed should improve all player abilities and thus improve each team to have fun, make friends, improve fitness and teach teamwork, respect and sportsmanship. We are not a youth club and we have limited places on teams, so players who aren't able to engage, practice and improve will risk their place on a team.

The aim of the club is to facilitate the creation and continuation of our teams in the Cambridge FA football leagues. We follow the FA code for developing players, which is split between non-competitive and competitive football. The main aim of this is preparing teams in non-competitive football ready to enjoy a prolonged journey in competitive football.

#### Under 7 to Under 11 years - Non-competitive football.

- Non-competitive football means that all players have equal opportunities within the team, which ensures each player has a good understanding of the whole game.
- By the end of the season all players should have played the same amount of match time, match starts and time on the bench.

#### Under 12 to Under 18 years - Competitive football

- Competitive football means that the manager of the team has the option to play their best team at matches all the time. As a player you must commit to all training and matches, to practice and improve, which will ensure your place on the team during matches.
- It is the FA that requires teams to move to competitive football, but as a club we still uphold our inclusive and equal opportunity values.

# Our club opportunities

We welcome anyone who would like to start a team in the village to please contact us for further information and guidance. We are a club run by volunteers and as such we encourage all parents to help maintain our incredible community that all members contribute to. From being a manager to helping to set up the pitch there are roles for all.

Just because we don't have space on a team for your child, doesn't mean we don't have others wanting to play too and we are very happy to set up additional teams to maximise match opportunities.

If you have any questions or need further assistance, please don't hesitate to contact info@girtoncolts.co.uk