

WhatsApp Group Policy

Purpose

The Team WhatsApp Group has been created to provide a quick and efficient way for coaches and team officials to communicate important football-related information to parents and carers.

The group is intended to support the running of the team and should be always used respectfully and responsibly.

Appropriate Use

The WhatsApp group should only be used for matters directly relating to the team, including:

- Match and training information
- Fixture changes or cancellations
- Meeting times and locations
- Availability requests
- Club announcements
- Urgent updates from coaches or team officials

Expectations

All parents and carers are expected to:

- Treat everyone with courtesy and respect.
- Remember that children may see messages shared by adults.
- Keep conversations football-related.
- Respect the privacy of players, parents, coaches and volunteers.
- Contact coaches privately if discussing your own child.

The Group Is Not For

The WhatsApp group must not be used for:

- Complaints about coaches, players, referees, parents or club officials.
- Discussions about team selection or playing time.
- Negative or abusive comments.
- Arguments or personal disputes.
- Gossip, rumours or speculation.
- Offensive, discriminatory or inappropriate language.
- Sharing screenshots or messages outside the group without permission.

Raising Concerns

If you have a concern about:

- Your child
- Another player
- Coaching decisions
- Safeguarding
- Club policies

Please contact the Team Manager or Club Welfare Officer privately. Vicky Phillips 07951878939 catsafterschool@aol.com The WhatsApp group is not an appropriate forum for complaints or safeguarding matters.

Respect for Volunteers

Our coaches, managers and committee members are volunteers who give up their own time to support children's football.

Please remember that responses to messages may not be immediate. Respect family time, work commitments and personal boundaries.

Message Times

Where possible, please avoid sending non-urgent messages before 8:00am or after 8:00pm.

Urgent football-related information may occasionally need to be shared outside these times.

Safeguarding

Parents must not post photographs or videos of children unless this has been approved in line with the club's photography and social media policies.

Any safeguarding concern should be reported directly to the Club Welfare Officer and never discussed within the WhatsApp group.

Failure to Follow This Policy

The club reserves the right to:

- Ask members to remove inappropriate posts.
- Issue a reminder of the group rules.
- Remove individuals from the WhatsApp group.
- Refer serious or repeated breaches to the Club Committee for further action under the club's Code of Conduct.

Our Aim

We want our Team WhatsApp groups to remain positive, friendly and supportive, helping everyone enjoy football while creating the best possible environment for our children to learn, develop and have fun.