



UNSWORTH CRICKET CLUB Club/

Statement of Intent

At Unsworth Cricket Club, we are dedicated to providing a caring, friendly, and safe environment where all children can train and play cricket in a relaxed and secure atmosphere.

Bullying of any kind is not tolerated at our Club.

If bullying does occur, we expect children to report it, knowing that incidents will be handled promptly and effectively.

We encourage anyone who knows or suspects that bullying is happening to speak to our Club Safeguarding Officer.

- We are a "TELLING" Club, which means anyone who witnesses bullying is encouraged to inform a Club Official.
- All club staff and volunteers should know our policy on bullying and follow it when bullying is reported.
- All children and parents/carers should be aware of our policy on bullying and what they should do if bullying occurs.
- We take very bullying seriously. Children and parents/carers should be assured they will be supported when bullying is reported.

Policy Objectives

- Ensure all Club officials, coaching and non-coaching staff, children, and parents understand what bullying is.
- Clearly communicate the Club's anti-bullying policy and procedures.
- Ensure that bullying reports are taken seriously and acted upon quickly and appropriately.

What is Bullying?

Bullying is intentional behaviour that hurts someone else. It can happen anywhere, including at home, at cricket or online. It is usually a repeated behaviour and can hurt someone both emotionally and physically.

Bullying can be:

- Emotional: Being unfriendly, exclusion, tormenting (e.g., hiding equipment, making threatening gestures).
- Physical: Pushing, kicking, hitting, punching, or any form of physical violence.
- Racist: Racial taunts, graffiti, and gestures.
- Sexual: Unwanted physical contact or sexually abusive comments.
- Homophobic: Targeting individuals based on their sexuality.
- Verbal: Name-calling, sarcasm, spreading rumours, and teasing.
- Cyber: Bullying through digital channels such as email, chat rooms, text messaging, and misuse of technology, including cameras and video sharing.

Our Commitment to Addressing Bullying

Bullying causes harm and distress. No one deserves to be a victim of bullying, and everyone has the right to be treated with respect. Children who bully need guidance on changing their behaviour. At Unsworth Cricket Club, we are committed to creating a culture where children and parents feel confident that reports or suspicions of bullying will be investigated and addressed promptly. Our goal is to foster a climate of trust where everyone feels comfortable speaking up.

All members of our club and the cricket clubs associated to the ECB, have a responsibility to respond promptly and effectively to issues of bullying towards children.

Signs and Symptoms of Bullying

A person may indicate they are being bullied by signs or behaviour. You should speak with our Club Safeguarding Officer if someone:

- Says they are being bullied.
- Changes their usual routine.
- Is unwilling to go to the club.
- 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, a victim of bullying may:

- Display anxious behaviours.
- Cry themselves to sleep or have nightmares.
- Become uncharacteristically aggressive, disruptive, or unreasonable.
- Bully other people or siblings.
- Stop eating.
- Self-harm.
- Attempt or threaten suicide.
- Run away.

These signs and behaviours could indicate other problems, but bullying should be considered a possibility and should be investigated thoroughly.

What to Do If You Are Concerned About Bullying

Procedures:

1. Report any bullying incidents to the Club's Safeguarding Officer. Contact details are available on the Clubmark Notice Board in the Clubhouse and on the Club's website.
2. In cases of serious bullying, incidents will be reported to the ECB Child Protection Team through the County Safeguarding Officer.
3. Inform the parents and arrange a meeting to discuss the situation.
4. If necessary, consult the police.
5. Investigate the bullying behaviour and ensure it stops promptly.
6. Support the bully in changing their behaviour.
7. In cases involving adults bullying children under the age of 18, the ECB must always be informed for further action.

Prevention and Anti-Bullying Strategies

To prevent bullying, Unsworth Cricket Club promotes a positive approach to behaviour by:

- Raising self-esteem.
- Celebrating achievements.
- Encouraging a strong sense of belonging and community within the Club.

By fostering a respectful, supportive environment, we aim to reduce bullying and create a positive experience for everyone involved in our Club.

Updated: January 2025