



Registered Charity 1165948

Berkshire Cricket

Listening to Children Policy

Policy created: January 2025

Next Review Date: January 2026

Version: 1.0

DEFINITIONS

In this Policy the following terms/expressions shall mean:

- ECB – means England and Wales Cricket Board
- Children – refers to persons under the age of 18
- Safe Hands – means the ECB’s cricket policies and procedures for safeguarding children within cricket.

STATEMENT OF INTENT

The aim of this policy is to provide procedures and practical guidance for all Berkshire Cricket employees, agents, volunteers, and other professionals and or partners working alongside us to safeguard children.

INTRODUCTION

Berkshire Cricket is committed to providing a caring, friendly, and safe space for everyone to experience cricket in a secure and enjoyable environment.

We aim to create a culture of listening to and consulting with children on a range of issues. This will lead to an environment where people feel they can voice any concerns (from suspected child abuse/neglect and/or poor practice in coaching sessions) in addition to sharing their ideas, likes and dislikes and to initiate improvements and enhance their overall enjoyment for the game.

Berkshire Cricket want to inspire the younger generation to believe and say, ‘cricket is a game for me’.

We recognise that children in “pathways” to elite sport can be particularly vulnerable and that Berkshire Cricket must ensure that all coaches and managers are familiar with these specific risks and vulnerabilities and mitigate these appropriately.

This will ensure that Berkshire Cricket truly listens to children.

Purpose and Actions

This policy explains the actions Berkshire Cricket will undertake to create a listening and supportive culture for children.

We will do this by:

- Recognising that all Children participating in cricket (regardless of age, gender, race, religion, sexual orientation, ability or disability) have a right to have fun and be protected from harm in a safe environment.
- Issuing a welcome letter/newsletter from the County Safeguarding Manager to new members of Berkshire Cricket squads so they know what's expected of them, who to contact if they have any concerns and are reassured that 'if something is worrying you, don't keep it to yourself.'
- Holding player/parent induction meetings soon after starting any programme.
- Acknowledging that a new player might not know anyone else in the team. As such developing player interactions between squad members will be incorporated throughout the programme. We will also encourage age related leadership and communication opportunities for peer support such as player led team talks, warm-ups, and game reviews.
- Encouraging players to complete all ECB online surveys – their opinion counts.
- Reflecting with all players before/during/after training/matches to celebrate successes and address any concerns.
- Issuing a minimum of 1 player and 1 parent survey during any 12-month period seeking open and honest feedback. The surveys will be anonymous, but with an opportunity to raise issues/concerns with the County Safeguarding Manager if required.
- Developing a system of anonymous feedback for squad members using QR codes to access a short survey about individual sessions.

The Head of Performance will be responsible for monitoring and challenging the success/effectiveness of 'Listening to Children' during their observations/supervision of the coaching team and during their annual reviews.

The actions above will be reviewed annually by the Head of Performance with the County Safeguarding Manager.

For further information on listening to children please contact the County Safeguarding Manager on 07789 250905 or at safeguarding@berkshirecricketfoundation.org.