SOCIAL MEDIA POLICY

St Peters Iver FC’s intention and responsibility is to safeguard children and young people involved in football. As with other leading world brands we use our website, Facebook and Twitter as a way of getting messaging across to everyone. Alongside the very beneficial aspects of modern communication technologies we have to recognise that there are also increased risks to children and young people. These risks must be appropriately managed. Everyone involved in football must recognise that the responsibility to safeguard exists both on and off the field of play. It’s essential that we as a club, parents and players make informed decisions about how they use the internet, mobile phone and email communications. Clubs and leagues that set up websites have a responsibility to ensure safeguards are in place. Coaches, officials, and those in a position of responsibility in clubs and leagues must ensure they communicate responsibly. The FA recommends that texting is not used as the primary method of communication between adults and child/young people in football.

St Peters Iver FC’s primary source of information is via our website, and our coaches may communicate through email or Teamer. Facebook and Twitter is also used, but at no time should there be any personal communication, ‘banter’ or comments. We have a responsibility for ensuring all content hosted on our website, social network areas and any associated message boards or blogs abide by the Rules and Regulations of The Football Association. We have appropriate adults that constantly monitor the content of our website, Facebook and Twitter.

All of our associated children and young people are advised by their coaches, parents/carers and Child Welfare Officer (Stuart Applebe) to always tell an adult they trust about communications that make them feel uncomfortable or where they’ve been asked not to tell their parent/carer about the communication.

The FA has developed a series of guidance to encourage best practice when communicating with and about children and young people; the following range of best practice guidance is available to you via the downloads area of [www.TheFA.com/footballsafe](www.TheFA.com/footballsafe%20)

1. Social networking, websites, mobile phones, and email communications

2. Running a website - Do’s and Don’ts

3. Responsible use of Social Networking sites

4. Communicating responsibly with Young Leaders, Coaches and Referees Under 18

5. Using Texts and Emails with U18s – Do’s and Don’ts

6. Guidance for parents/carers - Responsible use of text, email and social networking sites

7. Guidance for U18s using: Club WebPages, Social Networks, Email and Texts