

## Internet Safety for Academy Players

### Social Media Guidance

The Internet is now an accepted part of our everyday life. We use it for communicating, shopping, gaming and education in a variety of different ways.

**XXXXXXXX FC** is committed to safeguarding all children and young people involved in our Academy. In so doing, the club recognises both the benefits and potential risks of using the Internet. It is important we all use the Internet, electronic communication and social media in a safe and responsible way to protect all young players at **XXXXXXXX FC** Academy.

All on-line activity within The Club is subject to monitoring through the IT Department and misuse of the club computer systems could render those responsible liable to disciplinary actions.

It is also imperative that care is taken by individuals when accessing the Internet away from the club so that confidential information about the Academy is not compromised, for example, staff details, young player's personal details, status of individual players, performance reports, medical reports.

### Guidance for Young Players

Being part of **XXXXXXXX FC** Academy raises your profile amongst your peers and others outside the club so you should be careful who you tell about your involvement at the Club.

- Beware not everyone who communicates on the Internet is who they say they are.
- Know how the Club will contact you so that you can recognise it as being genuine.
- Tell the Club CSO or Welfare Officer, Education Officer or Academy Manager about any communication you receive that you are unsure or not happy about or anything posted about you on the Internet, in social media or other electronic communication such as text messages or emails.
- Do not give out your private information or details over the Internet to people you have never met offline or know personally.
- Do not give out personal details of family or team-mates including mobile numbers, home addresses, email addresses, Blackberry PIN, or Instant Message ID's without authority of the person whose details you are sharing.
- Do not post or send anything electronically that is threatening, abusive or discriminatory as this could be against the law and seriously damage your career at the Club.
- As your career develops be careful with your personal information as this could be used to steal your identity or impersonate you in an online environment.
- Beware of the risks to your close family and friends from people who want to gain access to you, check your privacy and security settings on social networking sites, be very selective about who you add as friends.
- Do not add or accept 'friends requests' on social networking sites of people you have never met offline, even if they are 'friends of friends'.
- If you have any concerns or need advice around online safety seek advice from the Club CSO or Welfare Officer, Education Officer or Academy Manager.

### Guidance for Parents and Carers

As young players develop through the Academy they will gain a public profile. In addition to the guidance given to players above, Parents and Carers should be aware of their own Internet use and how it can impact on their own children or children they have responsibility for.

- Avoid public comments about young players and their activities within the Academy.
- Consider what you post online as this can affect player safety in the offline environment, e.g. giving out detailed timings and locations of training sessions or matches.
- Beware who can read your comments in social media such as Facebook and Twitter, own what you say, do not post anything that may damage the progress of a young player at the Academy.
- Do not post anything that will place undue pressure on a young player to perform.
- Have realistic expectations of young players in the Academy, they will develop at their own pace, but your encouragement is a key factor in their development.
- Do not contact Academy Staff electronically about a player's progress in the Academy, if you are concerned; make time to talk to the Academy Staff in person.
- Work with the Academy Staff in the interests of your child; discuss any issues away from football that may impact on their performance.
- Never disclose online, public or otherwise, information about any young players, the Academy staff or **XXXXXXXX FC** as this could seriously undermine a player's future career. Do not send out personal information about players over the Internet to third parties purporting to be involved in football – if in doubt, seek advice from the Club CSO or Welfare Officer, Education Officer or Academy Manager.