

Parents in Sport Week 2021



Once again AVFC are supporting the CPSU and NSPCC Parents in Sport Week 2021 which runs from the 4th to the 10th of October and focuses on giving parents the information and tools they need to be part of the bigger safeguarding picture in sport.

[Free e-learning course for parents](#)

This course helps you understand your role in keeping children safe in sport and to let you know who to turn to if you have any worries.

The course is free to take and is suitable for any parent of a child who takes part in sport, regardless of your level of safeguarding knowledge. It should take you around 10 minutes to complete.

What's covered?

- knowing when something is wrong
- poor practice vs abuse in sport
- recognising the signs
- listening to children
- speaking out in sport

Aston Villa Football Club is committed to creating a culture where safeguarding responsibilities and procedures for raising concerns are widely understood and embedded in our values. We are fully committed to seeking to provide a safe environment for everyone involved in the club.

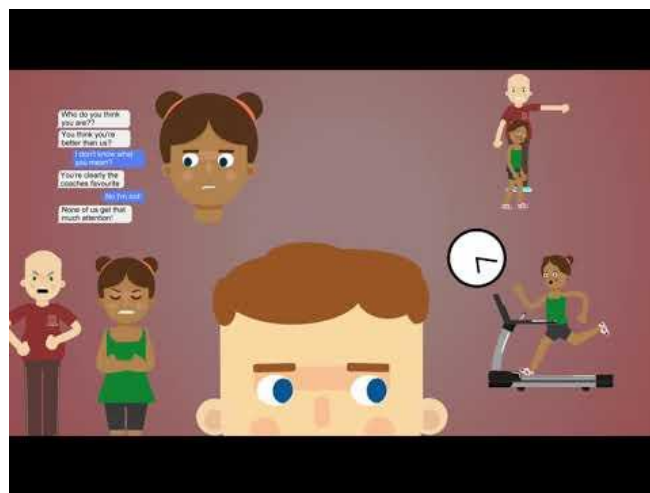
Christian Purslow, CEO

Speaking out in sport - for parents

This animation has been produced as part of the annual Parents in Sport Week campaign to help parents understand their role in keeping children safe in sport.

We hear Ellie's story, a young athlete who has a negative experience and whose parents aren't sure how to support her.

Through the course of the video, we look at what parents can do to help keep their child safe and who they can turn to for help if something is wrong.



How to get involved

You can help support this year's campaign by:

- **signing-up** as a Parents in Sport Week campaigner
- taking our **e-learning course** and learn how to keep your child safe
- share **our animation** on social media to help other parents
- talk about Parents in Sport Week on social media by using **#ParentsInSportWeek** and tagging **@NSPCC** and **@TheCPSU**

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Getting help if you're worried about a child or young person

If you're worried that a child is being abused or put at risk during sports activities, it's vital that you talk to someone. The idea of speaking out about abuse or poor practice in a club can be daunting but the services below are designed to help you if you have any concerns at all.

By taking action, you'll be safeguarding the child concerned as well as helping to prevent other children being harmed or put at risk.

- **If you think a child is in immediate danger of abuse, contact the police on 999**
- **If there's no immediate danger and you're unsure who to speak to, call the NSPCC on 0808 800 5000 for advice**
- **Visit**
<https://www.avfc.co.uk/club/safeguarding>
- **Speak to the Club Head of Safeguarding or the Designated Safeguarding Officers for the Academy:**
- **Head of Safeguarding, Christine Kane 07827300798**
- **Designated Safeguarding Officers:**
- **Guy Rippon 07825098154**
- **Ross Alexander 07920708286**

How you can support your child emotionally and practically:

We know that it can sometimes be hard to know how to best support your child in sport, especially during tough times like competitions. The NSPCC and CPSU have written some pointers to help:

- Teach your child what to do if they feel they are being badly treated or hurt
- Take note if your child appears to be worried, is not wanting to take part or go to the Club anymore
- Talk to them about it, but understand that if they are being badly treated, it may be difficult for them to open up immediately.
- Remember to tell them it is not their fault and to encourage them to tell someone they know and trust for example the safeguarding officer
- Let them know you're proud of them for many different reasons, not just what spot in the team they've got or what time they've beaten
- Support enthusiastically and positively
- Encourage without expecting perfection
- Acknowledge the efforts of all the children
- Promote fair play & encourage playing by the rules
- Support the coaches and officials
- Share challenges or criticisms (of officials, coaches or players) in a constructive way
- Allow the coaches to coach
- Support and respect their ambitions
- Celebrate the taking part, not just the winning
- Remember that this is your child's sporting experience – not yours!

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Safeguarding Newsletter

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