

Anti-Bullying Policy – Elton Cricket Club

*In cases of adults reported to be bullying cricketers under 18, the ECB must **always** be informed.*

Signs and symptoms of bullying behaviour

A child may indicate, by signs or behaviour, that he or she is being bullied. Adults should be aware of signs and investigate if a child:

- 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- Becomes withdrawn anxious, or lacking in confidence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, the child:

- Starts stammering
- Cries themselves to sleep at night or has nightmares
- Becomes aggressive, disruptive or unreasonable
- Is bullying other children or siblings
- Stops eating
- Attempts or threatens suicide or runs away

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

Procedures

- Report any concerns about bullying incidents to the Club Safeguarding Officer (Mark Eaton)
- In cases of serious bullying, the incidents will be reported to the ECB Safeguarding Team for advice via the County Safeguarding Officer
- Parents should be informed and invited to a meeting to discuss the problem
- If necessary, and appropriate, police should be consulted - for example if there has been assault, harassment or theft
- The bullying behaviour or threats of bullying must be investigated and the bullying stopped quickly
- An attempt will be made to help the bully (bullies) change their behaviour

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Prevention

We use the following methods to help children prevent bullying.

These include:

- Developing a children's code of conduct
- Agreeing behaviour contracts
- Having discussions about bullying and why it matters

Mark Eaton **Safeguarding Officer (2023)**

07804 773543

mark11565@gmail.com