

What is SafeGolf?

‘What is SafeGolf, and what is its relevance to me as a member (including parents/carers), visitor, or guest of Sherfield Oaks Golf Club?’

‘SafeGolf’ is a partnership of UK golf organisations, including England Golf, the R&A, and the PGA. Its ‘mission statement’ is to safeguard the welfare of children and young people, as well as adults at risk, and to promote a safe and positive environment for those participating, working, and volunteering, in the sport of golf.

Safeguarding is now a hugely relevant topic in our society, in the workplace, and in all sporting environments, where contact with children, young people and adults at risk is involved. Sherfield Oaks GC is fully committed to the ‘SafeGolf’ mission statement, and since the spring of 2021 has been working with England Golf to achieve ‘SafeGolf’ accreditation. To do this the Club has adopted a revised ‘Safeguarding & Child Protection Policy’ and a new ‘Safeguarding Adults Policy’, as well as fulfilling many other criteria, including the appointment of a Club Welfare Officer

Full details of our Safeguarding policies, and contact details of our Club Welfare Officer, can be found within this SafeGolf tab, as well as on our Clubhouse noticeboards. A short guide to Safeguarding is also published below.

We hope you have an enjoyable, safe and positive experience when playing, or even just visiting, Sherfield Oaks Golf Club.

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Safeguarding Children and Young People – A Short Guide

Sherfield Oaks GC is committed to ensure that the sport of golf is one within which children and young people involved can thrive and flourish in a safe environment and that all children, young people and adults at risk have a fun, safe and positive experience when playing golf.

Sherfield Oaks GC is an affiliated member of England Golf and follows the England Golf Safeguarding Children and Young People Policy and procedures.

You might be thinking **“What has safeguarding got to do with me?”**

Government guidance makes it clear that ‘Safeguarding is everyone’s responsibility’.

Anyone who has a negative experience of sport at a young age is less likely to become a regular long-term participant. It’s important for the future of your club and the sport as a whole that children and young people have an enjoyable experience.

All club members have a part to play in making that happen.

All adults should contribute to the club meeting its overall duty of care, be aware of our club's safeguarding policy, and know what to do if they are concerned about a young person.

Sherfield Oaks GC asks members, visitors and guests to

- Familiarise yourself with the Sherfield Oaks GC Safeguarding Policy.

In particular familiarise yourself with the following sections, full details of which can be found on the SOGC Safeguarding Policies section of the 'SafeGolf' tab, and on the Club noticeboards:

Sherfield Oaks GC Codes of Conduct

Anti-Bullying Policy

Transport Policy

Changing Room Policy

Photography, Videoing and the use of Social Media Policies

What should I do if I'm concerned about a child or young person?

A concern may involve the behaviour of an adult towards a child at the club, or something that has happened to the child outside the club.

Children and young people may confide in adults they trust, in a place where they feel comfortable.

An allegation may range from verbal bullying, to inappropriate contact online, to neglect or emotional abuse, to physical or sexual abuse.

If you are concerned about a child, it is not your responsibility to investigate further, but it is your responsibility to act on your concerns and share them.

Pass the information to the Sherfield Oaks GC Welfare Officer who will follow the club's safeguarding procedures. Contact details can be found in the Club Welfare Officer section of the 'SafeGolf' tab or on Clubhouse noticeboards.