

ASTON FENCING ACADEMY

WELFARE POLICY

Version: 1.00

Date: 12/03/2026

Review Date: Annually



POLICY STATEMENT

Aston Fencing Academy is committed to ensuring the welfare, safety and wellbeing of all children and young people participating in our activities.

We aim to provide a positive, safe and supportive environment where every child feels valued, respected and able to enjoy their experience.

The welfare of the child is always the Academy's primary concern.

PURPOSE OF THIS POLICY

This policy outlines how Aston Fencing Academy will:

- Promote the welfare and wellbeing of all participants
- Provide a safe and inclusive environment
- Prevent harm, abuse or neglect
- Respond appropriately to welfare concerns
- Support children to enjoy sport in a positive and structured way

PRINCIPLES

Our approach to welfare is based on the following principles:

- The welfare of the child is paramount
- All children have the right to be safe and protected
- All children should be treated fairly and with respect
- Every child should feel included and supported
- Concerns must be taken seriously and acted upon

RESPONSIBILITIES

Head Coach – Aston Bowring

Responsible for delivering safe, structured sessions and maintaining a positive environment.

Safeguarding & Welfare Officer – Mark Bowring

Responsible for overseeing welfare and safeguarding, receiving concerns, and ensuring appropriate action is taken where required.

PROMOTING WELFARE

Aston Fencing Academy promotes welfare by:

- Creating a welcoming and inclusive environment
 - Delivering structured, age-appropriate sessions
 - Encouraging confidence, discipline and respect
 - Supporting children of all abilities, including SEN participants
 - Maintaining appropriate supervision at all times
 - Using safe and suitable equipment
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BEHAVIOUR AND WELLBEING

We aim to create an environment where:

- Children feel safe, supported and encouraged
- Positive behaviour is recognised and reinforced
- Bullying, discrimination or inappropriate behaviour is not tolerated

Any behaviour that negatively impacts the welfare of others will be addressed immediately.

ANTI-BULLYING APPROACH

Aston Fencing Academy has a zero-tolerance approach to bullying.

Bullying may include:

- Verbal abuse
- Physical behaviour
- Exclusion
- Online or social media behaviour

If bullying is identified:

- It will be addressed immediately
- Parents/guardians will be informed
- Appropriate action will be taken to ensure the safety of all participants

HEALTH AND WELLBEING

We support children's wellbeing by:

- Encouraging participation without pressure
- Promoting enjoyment over performance
- Providing a structured and supportive learning environment
- Being aware of individual needs and abilities

COMMUNICATION WITH PARENTS

Parents and guardians play an important role in supporting welfare.

We encourage parents to:

- Share any relevant information about their child
- Raise any concerns about wellbeing
- Communicate openly with staff

All children must have a completed waiver form before participation, including emergency contact and medical details.

RESPONDING TO WELFARE CONCERNS

If a welfare concern arises:

- It will be taken seriously
- It will be recorded where appropriate
- The Safeguarding & Welfare Officer will be informed
- Appropriate action will be taken

Where necessary, concerns may be escalated to relevant authorities.

CONFIDENTIALITY

All welfare concerns will be handled sensitively and confidentially.

Information will only be shared where necessary to protect the child.

SAFE COLLECTION

To support child welfare:

- Children must be collected by a designated adult
 - A password system is used where required
 - Children will not be released without appropriate verification
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REVIEW

This policy will be reviewed annually or in line with changes to safeguarding guidance or academy practices.

CONTACT

Safeguarding & Welfare Officer

Mark Bowring

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