



**MIDDLETON CHENEY**  
FOOTBALL CLUB

# NEW STARTER INTRODUCTION 2023/2024



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FOOTBALL CLUB

The Playing Fields, Astrop Road, Middleton Cheney @CheneyFC



# Welcome!

Thank you for your interest in signing your child up to play for Middleton Cheney FC, we offer you a warm welcome to our Club and hope that you will all be happy here for many years to come. As the parent/guardian of a registered player, you are also automatically a member of MCFC.

As at the 2023/2024 we currently have 12 teams playing in five different leagues, and we encourage you to watch and support other teams within the Club - we are one Club, not 12 individual teams.

As new members to the Club, this guide provides an overview of some of the key areas to help you navigate your way through helping you and your child get up to speed quickly. Whilst the contents are not exhaustive, if there are any specific areas not covered your child's coach, or any member of the committee can support answering any of your questions.

The contents of this pack covers:

- Club Welfare and Welfare Officer
- Committee
- Registration Fees and Contributions to Club Costs
- Age Groups and Leagues including formats
- Match and Training Arrangements
- SPOND
- Running the Team

Our priority is ensuring that our players continue to develop and enjoy the game. As a Club we are committed to ensuring we invest back into our players – we provide position specific coaching and allocate funds annually to provide players football opportunities they would not necessarily be able to have – for example the 2023 visit to St George's Park for a tour and training session with FA coaches.

We hope that you and your children have a long and enjoyable period with Middleton Cheney FC and I look forward to seeing you at our playing venues watching and supporting all our teams within the Club



We hope you enjoy the season and welcome to Middleton Cheney FC

## **Wayne Campbell**

Chairman, Middleton Cheney Football Club

# Welfare and Club Welfare Officer

Safeguarding is everybody's responsibility.

English football takes safeguarding extremely seriously. The ongoing work to make the game as safe and enjoyable as possible is led by The FA, the game's governing body in this country. This work is delivered through County FAs in conjunction with leagues and clubs.

Aligned into the FA, Middleton Cheney FC has a clear Safeguarding strategy. It is complete with policies, procedures and regulations. Every club in the country must adhere to the policies which apply to them. If not, they face sanctions, including suspension from playing.

Policies include the mandatory appointment of a Club Welfare Officer(s) for every league or club with youth teams. There is also a requirement for specified club committee officers to complete the free online 'Safeguarding for Committee Members' course. While mandatory for specified officers, the course is open to anyone to raise their awareness of potential situations and how to deal with them.

Club Welfare Officers must have an FA-accepted Criminal Record Check, which must be renewed every three years. They must also undertake regular FA-approved safeguarding training. With the Club's support, Club Welfare Officers ensure the appropriate checks and training are completed for anyone at the Club working with children and young people under the age of 18.

Natasha Davis is Middleton Cheney FC's Safeguarding Officer having taken over the post in July 2023.

If you have any concerns about the welfare of a child, please contact Natasha, at [welfare@middletoncheneyfc.co.uk](mailto:welfare@middletoncheneyfc.co.uk)

All contact with the Club, will be confidential. If you feel that a child is in immediate danger, please call the Police.

Further information on the Club's Safeguarding Policy can be found on the website and covers:

- Anti-Bullying Policy
- Heading Guidance
- MCFC Astrop Park Emergency Action Plan
- MCFC Safeguarding Children Policy Procedures
- Middleton Cheney FC Facility Plan
- Parent/Guardian Handbook
- Photography Guidelines
- Player Handbook
- Safer Recruitment: Best Practice Advice for Grassroots Football
- Web, Social, Mobile and Email Communications

More information on Safeguarding can be found on the FA's web site <http://www.thefa.com/football-rules-governance/safeguarding>

# Committee

The Committee is currently made up of the following Club officials:

- Chairman
- Vice Chairman
- Secretary
- Treasurer
- Club Welfare Officer
- Pitch Secretary
- Youth Coach Representative
- Senior Team Representative
- Parent Representative

Committee members are as followed:



**GARETH UDEN**

Vice-Chairman



**CAROLYN HAY**

Committee Member



**LUKE TERRY**

Committee Member



**THERESA GOSS**

Club Secretary



**DAVID HANDLEY**

Treasurer



**NATASHA DAVIS**

Club Welfare Officer



**WAYNE CAMPBELL**

Chairman



**WAYNE GOSS**

Committee Member



**CHRIS MORRIS**

Committee Member

# Registration Fees and Contributions to Club Costs

Registration fees for players is completed through our online registration system, with an initial registration fee payable alongside 3 further payments due throughout the season. These three payments are the contributions to Club costs.

Fees have been increased by £30 this year to cover our increasing costs for items such as grass cutting, insurance, equipment and an average cost of £12,000 for winter training.

The planned prices for 2023/2024 are as follows:

- Signing on fee - £60
- 01.09.23 - £50
- 01.11.23 - £50
- 01.02.24 - £50

By registering with Middleton Cheney Football Club, parents are committing to paying these fees on the required date. You can pay all monies upfront if you wish.

The contributions to the Club running costs are not game related: they do not equate to a particular number of games a team has played or the number of games a player has taken part in.

Once the fee(s) has been paid, it is non-refundable. A full copy of Player Registration Fees and Contributions to Club Running Costs policy is available on the website

If you have any concerns about paying the fees, please contact Natasha Davis, Club Welfare Officer. Contact details are on the back page.

We are pleased to say that effective from season 2023/2024, there is also a discount for two or more children who play for the Club. If this applies to you, please email [football@middletoncheneyfc.co.uk](mailto:football@middletoncheneyfc.co.uk) for further details.

Furthermore – the club can make arrangement for Training only registrations if the age group coaches are happy with this

It is the Club's expectation that all coaches ensure 50% game time for youth team players, provided that they are demonstrating consistent commitment and engagement within both training and match environments, along with respect and fair play to teammates, coaches, other club members and the opposition. We expect all youth team players to adhere to The FA Respect Code of Conduct. Should your child's coach have concerns about their levels of participation, they will discuss this with you - but this is a two-way process, and you should also discuss any concerns that you have with them.

# Age Groups and Leagues

Banbury & District Lord Jersey League	Men's Team (Games on Saturday afternoons)
Witney & District Youth League	Under 12's, Under 11's, Under 10's, Under 9's, Under 8's & Under 7's (Games on Saturday mornings)
Milton Keynes & District Development League	Under 16's & Under 14's (Games on Saturday mornings)
Oxfordshire Youth Football League	Under 13's & Under 15's (Games on Sunday mornings)
Oxfordshire Girls Football League	Under 10's Lionesses (Games on Saturday mornings)

Age Group	Format	Ball Size	Competitive	Match Length (max)
U7 (Year 2)	5 v 5	3	No	2 x 20
U8 (Year 3)	5 v 5	3	No	2 x 20
U9 (Year 4)	7 v 7	3	No	2 x 25
U10 (Year 5)	7 v 7	4	No	2 x 25
U11 (Year 6)	9 v 9	4	No	2 x 30
U12 (Year 7)	9 v 9	4	Yes	2 x 30
U13 (Year 8)	11 v 11	4	Yes	2 x 35
U14 (Year 9)	11 v 11	4	Yes	2 x 35
U15 (Year 10)	11 v 11	5	Yes	2 x 40
U16 (Year 11)	11 v 11	5	Yes	2 x 40

# Match and Training Arrangements

Home matches are played at The Playing Fields, Astrop Road, Middleton Cheney and Chenderit School, Archery Road, Middleton Cheney.

It is the responsibility of the team coach to liaise with the opposition to make arrangements for the games. Please refer to the previous page for matchday information.

Match kick off times vary – although the default time from the FA is 10:30am with coaches expecting the team to arrive roughly 30 minutes beforehand.

When attending home matches, we ask that all MCFC players and spectators walk to The Playing Fields and Chenderit School. Where this is not possible, PLEASE ensure that you park courteously and are considerate of residents - ensuring that you do not block access for emergency vehicles. This also applies to all training sessions.

Pre-season training and training during British Summer Time predominantly takes place at Chenderit School until the end of October. Training times are usually an hour between 17:30 – 19:30.

Winter training takes place at various venues in Banbury and Brackley. Due to the volume of teams in the area, winter training slots can be difficult to secure and therefore training days and times will vary from summer time training. Your coaches will make every effort to accommodate training times but sometimes it is just not possible to meet everyone's needs

# SPOND

Middleton Cheney FC encourages all coaches and parents to download and use the SPOND app as a method of communication – as opposed to email and WhatsApp.

Coaches are able pre-plan events, such as matches and training, giving parents details of matches, key information such as addresses – which are linked to both Maps and Google Maps for ease of navigating, and arrival times. Notifications are sent to parents and they will need to confirm or decline events allowing coaches to plan teams and game time more effectively.

The task feature allows coaches to ask for volunteers to help at matches by allocating tasks such as respect barriers, goals and volunteers to referee the matches

The poll feature allows parents to vote and is useful for coaches when looking to gauge interest of kit sizes, fundraising events and also nominations for awards at the end of the season.

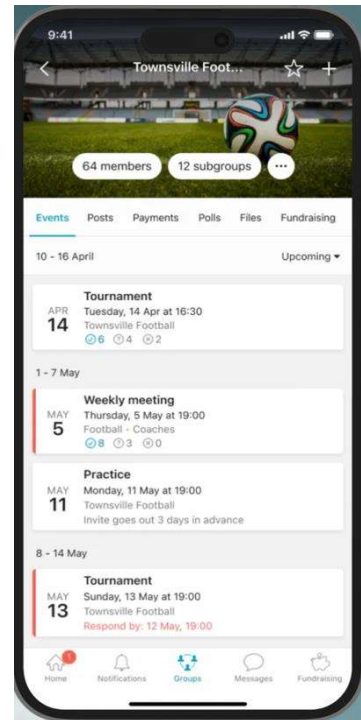
The messaging feature means both group, sub group and individual messages can be sent directly to parents.

More advanced users will use the payments app which is of use to coaches when parents are requested to fund events, such as tournaments.

As well as for ease, the Club feels this is also beneficial from a Safeguarding perspective.

The App is available from App Store and Google Play and is free to download.

For more information, please visit <https://www.spond.com/en-us/messaging/>





# Running the Team

Middleton Cheney FC only exists due to the work from its volunteers.

Ideally the team will need 2 - 4 parents to volunteer to support each team. Roles within each team usually covers:

- Coaching
- Administration
- Communications

All volunteers will need to be DBS checked - the Club will arrange this for you - you will just need to provide the requested information and forms of ID. This is not onerous, but being prompt and organised will help our Club Welfare Officer process the applications.

## Coaching qualifications

There will need to be 1 lead coach who will undertake the Level 1 FA badge. All details are provided in the links below. Level 1 will be funded by the Club. The FA Playmaker is essential for all coaches and the minimum requirement.

- EE Playmaker - <https://learn.Englandfootball.com/courses/football/ee-playmaker> (has to be completed first)
- First Aid - <https://learn.Englandfootball.com/courses/medical/introduction-to-first-aid-in-football>
- Safeguarding - <https://learn.Englandfootball.com/courses/safeguarding/safeguarding-for-all>
- Level 1 FA - <https://learn.Englandfootball.com/courses/football/introduction-to-coaching-football>

They are not onerous in the slightest. They can all be taken online. For the Level 1, there is an online webinar which takes place over a number of weeks - lasting an hour at a time. There are also mini multiple-choice assessments at the end.

For those who are interested, one of the Club's committee members can explain in more detail if required.

## Coaching the kids

You get out what you put in.

It is always recommended to have a plan going into the training sessions. A lesson plan of how you will use the hour. It goes quickly, so usually 3 activities and a match is plenty.

Prep time ahead of the sessions can be as long or as short as you like - but you must have a structure.

## Kits

The standard home playing kit for all MCFC teams is royal blue & white shirt, royal blue shorts & royal blue socks. The standard away playing kit is yellow shirt, black shorts & black socks. Our goalkeepers play in neon yellow or green shirts. Playing kit is provided to all players through team **sponsorship**, and additional items and training kit is available to purchase from our online club shop - accessed via [www.trysportsonline.co.uk](http://www.trysportsonline.co.uk).

## Admin

The best teams are the most organised teams. The role of admin can be undertaken by the coaches or, in fact, anyone. It might suit someone who is keen to get involved but may not feel confident in leading as a coach. Admin tasks include:

- Ownership of SPOND:
- Liaise with other teams to organise friendlies and league matches agreeing kick off and meet times
- Liaise with parents via SPOND by creating events for the games
- Liaise with parents via SPOND by creating events for training
- Ensure communications via SPOND messages in the event of changes and cancellations



We hope that this New Starter handbook has been useful.

You can find a large amount of information and relevant policies on our website at [www.middletoncheneyfc.co.uk](http://www.middletoncheneyfc.co.uk)

For any general enquiries please contact the Club Secretary, Theresa Goss, via email at [football@middletoncheneyfc.co.uk](mailto:football@middletoncheneyfc.co.uk)

If you have a welfare or safeguarding concern within your child's team or at Middleton Cheney Football Club, you can contact the Club Welfare Officer, Natasha Davis via email at [welfare@middletoncheneyfc.co.uk](mailto:welfare@middletoncheneyfc.co.uk).

You can also contact the Designated Safeguarding Officer at Northamptonshire Football Association via email at [safeguarding@northantsfa.com](mailto:safeguarding@northantsfa.com)  
or call 07535 640452

