

FC LAKESIDE ACADEMY

WELCOME FOR PARENTS & PLAYERS



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Welcome To The FC Lakeside Academy!

FC Lakeside is a community grassroots football club, accredited with a 3 star (highest) rating from England Football.

The FC Lakeside Academy is all about a fun introduction to football for boys and girls in the U5, U6, U7 and U8 age groups, leading to more organised league football at U9s.

Our U5s & U6s play during our fun football sessions on Saturday mornings with U7s & U8s able to play matches against other teams, with optional midweek training for U8s.

We are a volunteer-run club with over 400 registered players from u5s to our senior teams, with around 100 children playing weekly in our four Academy age groups.

Volunteer team coaches stay with the group, moving up age groups with them over time.



FC LAKESIDE ACADEMY WELCOME & PHILOSOPHY



Our Aim

To provide children with a FUN, SAFE & INCLUSIVE football environment, helping them to develop a love for the ball and then the game, or simply being active, for years to come – an experience filled with lots of positive memories, great challenges and friendships.



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Our Sessions

FC Lakeside Academy coaches aim to create fun sessions with age and ability-appropriate challenges, helping young players to develop as children and footballers through play and discovery.

There will be lots of fun games, lots of touches of the ball, encouraging of players to dribble, turn, protect and steal the ball, lots of opportunities for children to develop friendships and grow in confidence and resilience.



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Our Promise

The welfare of your child is the most important thing to us. We are fully-focused on providing a fun, safe and inclusive environment. This does not mean that we are non-competitive! We love to give children the chance to compete, to win, to score points, to learn to lose, to take risks and make mistakes, free from pressure and judgement.

We have a great track-record of providing football for all – as a result we have over 400 players of all abilities, boys and girls, and have been the starting point for hundreds more players now playing football into adulthood, including some professional footballers!



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At The FC Lakeside Academy, we promise to provide:

- **Equal opportunities to join and play** – every child will be given equal opportunities to join the club and play in training sessions, friendly or organised matches and tournaments (once they are eligible to play at U7s)
- **A positive, supportive environment** - quiet sidelines, giving children the chance to play, learn and discover. Coaches help, encourage and challenge children rather than shout, demand and instruct
- **DBS checked volunteers and FA qualified volunteer coaches**
- **Equal game time on match days** (when they start at U7s) – this is absolutely essential for children to feel included and valued within the group and for all children to have an opportunity to develop
- **Mixed ability teams** – this is the best way for all children to develop and enjoy themselves at a grassroots club. In our experience, ‘first teams’ and A/B/C/D/E etc. teams (yes, this happens from u7s at other clubs!) in the early years do not work for our children – they limit the development of players and can be divisive and non-inclusive. Our volunteer coaches are trained to challenge all players within a mixed ability group and we develop a larger pool of confident and happy footballers as a result
- **Affordable football for all** – as an inclusive community club, we never want to see a situation where a child cannot play due to the affordability of monthly fees. We provide free (sponsor-funded) kit, monthly fees to cover training and playing costs and will always support parents who have difficulties paying fees
- **No trials!** Children try us out, not the other way round!



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What Is Success?

At the FC Lakeside Academy, it has to be as simple as having players wanting to come back week after week, season after season.



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Our Players

As our players leave the FC Lakeside Academy, moving into more organised league football, we want to see dribblers, risk-takers, decision-makers, players that want the ball, that can get out of tight spaces and excite, never know when they're beaten yet know how to be respectful and sporting.



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How can I be a great football parent?

- Be positive and supportive towards children on the sidelines
- Trust and support Club volunteers and coaches
- Let the car journey home be about all the positives that day
- Be patient – children develop at different rates, will have great sessions, not-so-great sessions, times when they have lots of success and times when they fail. Being patient, accepting that mistakes are part of learning and that this is their game will give your child the best chance of them developing and enjoying the game of football at FC Lakeside and elsewhere
- Understand that children's development, wellbeing and enjoyment of the game always comes before winning
- Volunteer! We are a 100% volunteer-run club and your help, whether it's helping put up the goals, collecting team fees, arranging team fixtures, coaching/assisting during sessions or helping at FC Lakeside events, is vital to the running of our Club



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Important Info

If you have any concerns about your child at The FC Lakeside Academy, please contact your age group coach or Club contacts; Liam Jones (Head of Academy) or Tina Sawle (Child Welfare Officer).

Liam Jones – liam@opiyo.co.uk

Tina Sawle – tsawle@hotmail.co.uk

For more information and links to codes of conduct and other FA guidance, please visit our website.



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