

Hampshire Cricket Boys Pathway Handbook 2025



Hampshire Cricket Player Pathway 2024/25

In 2016 Hampshire Cricket took ownership of the old junior district programme and the County Age Group squads. The CAG's were previously run by the Hampshire Cricket Board. The move was a bold statement by the club as we looked to ensure we were providing a more even opportunity for all players to progress within our pathway. The aim was for players to receive more coaching hours of a higher quality and a more varied match programme before making selections onto our elite squads. This change will allow for late developers and players who have previously not had the exposure to the game at an early age a fair chance to catch up with others. In 2024 we preselected or trialled approximately 1600 boys and 500 girls under the Hampshire Cricket pathway. A vast increase in numbers since 2016.

In 2019 the introduction of the State Jets programme provided state school cricketers selected into our squads with a top up coaching programme and with an extended fixtures list in the summer. This was an attempt to plug the gap left by the decline in cricket programmes across state schools in general.

In 2021 Hampshire Cricket launched the Hawks
City Academy programme. The Southampton Hawks
Academy has been underway since 2021, as well as the
Basingstoke Hawks Academy at Brighton Hill School,
and in 2024 the Portsmouth Hawks Academy at Priory
in Fratton was launched. Supported by the Hampshire
Cricket Board, Hampshire Cricket Foundation and Cantell
School in Southampton, it aims to provide an alternative
pathway for players into our elite programmes, taking the
game to areas where many cricketers may not have been
able to follow the traditional route into our programmes.

Our regional performance centres provide a variety of cricket across the County. Selection for our CAG squads begins at U12 with the final year being U16. Alongside our CAG programme we run junior and senior development squads with the very best players from Hampshire, Dorset, Berkshire, the IOW and Guernsey all being available to select for our U18's and Academy teams. The pinnacle of the Junior Pathway is selection onto the Hampshire Academy U15 – U18. The Hampshire Academy Team play in the Southern Premier League and the U18's feature in the ECB 3 day competition, 50 over comp and the T20 Competition held throughout the Summer.

"Hampshire Cricket is very proud to be able to offer so many boys the opportunity to feature within our pathway, offering a multi-tiered structure with players regularly being given the opportunity to re-enter or be promoted to different squads throughout their Hampshire journey. Our experienced and highly qualified RPC, CAG and Academy Coaches are dedicated to providing all players with the tools they require to play at the next level, regardless of what level the player reaches, we are hopeful that all will enjoy anytime spent within the Hampshire Cricket Pathway. A small percentage of the 1500+ players who were seen prior to winter selection will go on to gain a place on the Hampshire Academy, even fewer will end up with a career in playing the game for a living. Alongside improving every player's cricket skills, we are dedicated to helping the boys to live a happy and healthy life through providing education in mental and physical wellbeing."

Charlie Freeston

Head of Player Development & Talent Pathway



Player Pathway

Hampshire Academy (U15-18)

County Age Groups (U18)

Junior/Senior Midweek Sessions (CAG Primary Players)

CountyAgeGroups (U12-16) Primary & Shadow

Regional Performance Centres (U9-15)

Hampshire Cricket

Integration into Hampshire Academy

State Jets (U12 -16)
(State school RPC & CAG Players)

Bespoke player ID Hampshire Hawks Academies

(Portsmouth, Basingstoke & Southampton)

Other Talent ID Programmes

Talent ID Sessions from Hampshire Cricket Board Street & Wicketz programmes

State School Initiatives



Other Pathway Commitments



Southampton,
Basingstoke &
Portsmouth Hawks
Academy

At Cantell School, Brighton Hill Community School & Priory School respectively



Barton Pevril College programme



State Jets U12-15s

State educated cricketers in County Age Group programmes



Partnership with Dorset, Berkshire, the IOW & Guernsey Cricket Pathways



Participation in the Southern Premier League



Summary Of Pathway Aims

- Produce cricketers who play for Hampshire and England across all formats
- All players to enjoy their experience and time with Hampshire Cricket
- To ensure that all players are given the opportunity to play at a higher standard
- Aim to install a passion for Hampshire Cricket and the wider game itself
- To create an environment that provides the player with as much opportunity as is possible/realistic to show their best self

Hampshire Cricket Pathway **Philosophy**

Regional Performance Centres/County Age Group Squads



U9-U12s (RPC)

Enjoyment, Participation & Experience

- · To encourage enjoyment, participation and playing with freedom
- Begin to implement our 'This is Hampshire' match day philosophies and traits.
- Players to stay in their own Regional age groups unless exceptional performances or specific role opportunity or maturation dictates otherwise.
- Mixture of soft ball & hard ball cricket to be played at relevant times.
- Players to be given as equal an opportunity as possible in a season.
- Rotation of players offering different match scenario roles should be the norm.
- Aim to play lots of cricket covering all formats: Charlie Cricket, T20, 100 Ball / 40 over & pairs. Enable and educate players to make transition from the following: Soft ball to hard ball & transition from RPC to CAG for high potential players.

U12-16s (CAG)

Exposure, Opportunity, Commitment & Progression

- Fully implement our 'This is Hampshire' match day philosophies and character traits.
- Begin the process of identifying and prioritising (where appropriate) high potential and high performance players in the CAG Squads and Midweek sessions.
- Add individualised programmes including psychology sessions and one to one sessions to CAG high potential and performance players.
- Continue to provide cricket opportunity, exposure and education for all CAG players through an adequate quantity of CAG training sessions and matches.
- Continue to offer variation of roles in a team in the summer season.
 Begin to identify individuals to certain roles.
- Begin to sow the seed to understanding whether individuals want to play U18s cricket and understand what is required to do that.

U13-15s (RPC)

Enjoyment, Participation, Experience & Belief

- To encourage enjoyment, participation and playing with freedom. Begin to implement our 'This is Hampshire' match day philosophies and traits.
- Players to stay in their own Regional age groups unless exceptional performances or specific role opportunity dictates opportunities further up the pathway.
- Continue to offer variation of roles in a team in the summer season.
- Begin to identify individuals to certain roles.
- Rotation of players offering different match scenario roles should be the norm.
- Aim to play different formats including T20, 100 Ball 40 over cricket.

Hampshire U18s

Exposure, Commitment & Performance

- Designed for players that have genuine potential or do perform to a high level in a competitive environment.
- Enable players (who may end up developing later) to stay in the system for longer. Encourages players to play the highest level of competitive cricket available to them.
- Players are encouraged to take all & any opportunity that comes their way with the extensive wide ranging playing schedule that U18s cricket offers.
- Opportunity to integrate players from outside of Hampshire. Including players from our affiliated counties (Berkshire, Wiltshire, Dorset, IOW & Guernsey)
- Continue to implement our 'This is Hampshire' match day philosophies and character traits.
- Players will play alongside academy players.

This is Hampshire

Hampshire Character Independent Supportive Resilient **Competitive Integrity Driven** Take responsibility for Accept mistakes and Seize initiative Live by what you say Set high standards, Learn from your own destiny respond positively strive to achieve Be ruthless Be honest. Demand more of even when it's tough Give what's needed to Seek opportunities Better never stops Embrace the battle Play for...'each other' enhance the team to fail Speak to the face, Expect nothing, Do what needs doing give everything Prepare well, not behind the back when nobody sees always trust your ability **Everyday** How's my is an Get on top. Fear no one. **Always** To the mate at the opportunity, stay on top take them on team first very end make it other end? your day **Matchday Philosophy**

Hampshire Cricket Pathway Cricket Skill Set

Batting

- Attack, defend and evade the fast bouncing ball
- Attack, defend and leave the moving ball
- Attack, defend and leave the turning ball
- Deal with periods of control and pressure
- Deal with the unorthodox and mystery
- Deal with different variations in pace, spin and angles
- Adopt to different surfaces and conditions
- Adapt to different situations and roles
- Hit boundaries all around the ground
- Manipulate the ball into space to rotate strike
- Adopt dynamic positions to transfer weight effectively
- Play with an intent to score
- Bat for long periods

Seam Bowler

- Bowl with control and accuracy (stock ball, bouncer and yorker)
- Bowl with a strong, safe and repeatable action
- Execute plans to build pressure and take wickets
- Adapt to different surfaces and conditions
- Adapt to different situations and roles
- Bowling with pace
- Create a lateral movement
- Generate a bounce

Spin Bowler

- Deliver variations (spin, flight and angles)
- Bowl with a strong, safe and repeatable action
- Execute plans to build pressure and take wickets
- Field effectively off their own bowling
- Adapt to different surfaces and conditions
- Adapt to different situations and roles
- Spin the ball hard and at the correct pace to create drop, drift, turn and bounce
- Bowl with control and accuracy - line and length

Fielding

- Throw safely with speed and accuracy from a range of distances and angles
- Catch reliably with the ability to convert extraordinary chances
- --- Create chances through anticipation and movement
- Safely defend space within the inner and outer ring
- Create pressure as part of the fielding unit
- Adapt to different situations and roles

Wicket Keeping

- --- Catch reliably from bowlers and fielders
- Focus on catching the ball for long periods of play, ignoring all distractions
- Convert chances into caught behinds, stumpings and run outs with the ability to take extraordinary chances
- Hold their posture until the ball pitches when standing up
- Hold their posture throughout the delivery until they have to move when standing back
- Fulfil a major role in the bating order
- Field in a range of positions and throw safely with speed and accuracy from a range of distances and angles

Selection & Talent ID **Process**

Selection and Talent ID is a complicated process that consists of many elements.

It is not possible to get this right all the time and it should evolve/change and develop on regular occasions.





Coach Judgement

This consists of many things including:

- Gut feel, knowledge, experience, judgement, evidence, stats and opinion
- A decision made having observed the player over a long period of time and in different situations
- A coaches experience and history, using previous knowledge of successful and unsuccessful selections
- Blink. A coach may see a one off snap moment.
 Something the player does
 in a moment that the coach believes may
 be a sign they will have a future as a pro
- Does the coach believe they have the game to go on to professional cricket

Other Considerations

The coaches engaged in the selection of squads and teams will work through the points and use them as their definitive guide to shape their choices of players.

Squads and teams are not selected by individuals but by groups of coaches and as this is the case the decisions made are underpinned by many and lengthy discussions between them. Coaches have the overarching responsibility for their team and as such their decisions are – and have to be – final in terms of selection.



Attributes

Are they athletic? Do they move well? [For example, genetics, tall parents for a bowler is an advantage and means they are likely to be tall themselves].



Character

The Character of the player plays such and important part in future selection. We will use our "This is Hampshire" character traits and match day philosophy as both a selection tool and a coaching tool to help players awarenessaround them all.

Less so the younger they are as character can be shaped and moulded and improved with work. The older the player is the more likely they are to have certain traits in place for life and therefore selection on character becomes one of the main selection criteria from 17+ age.

Obviously if a young player is displaying lots of the character traits you would be looking for then you would be likely to select them, however if a player does not have them at a young age, this would not be a reason for non selection.



Coachability

How quickly does a player learn/adapt and/or take on new ideas.



Coping Under Pressure

Can they cope with/perform and deliver when they are under pressure.



Fast Adapters

Will a player who is exposed to a higher standard quickly make that their new level or will they freeze and does their performance get worse. (Often not discovered until it has been attempted).



Growth Mindset

How does a player view and respond to tough situations, challenge and adversity.



Level Of Maturation

Is a player better than another at this stage, simply because they have matured quicker by this stage/age.



Others Input

Using other experts to help formulate a view on players that you may not have seen much of.



Performance Stats

The players stats will form part of selection. Again, the younger the player, the less you will use stats as a selection tool. The older the player is, the greater the significance of statistics and performance.

The evidence says that until U17 age group, there is no link to how well a player does prior to this age and success at senior/ professional level. The greater the time or sample of performance stats then the more relevance they have. For example, a batters combined County average from U10 - U17 is a better indicator than a player's yearly average as an U13 batter.

Often fast bowlers will go for more runs and have worse figures than a slow seam bowler, this is because young, less mature batters can use the pace of the delivery to score whereas a slow seamer will be harder to score off as the young batter will not have the strength to hit the ball hard in front of the wicket.



Relative Age Effect

What stage of the year where they born.



Threshold/Differentiators

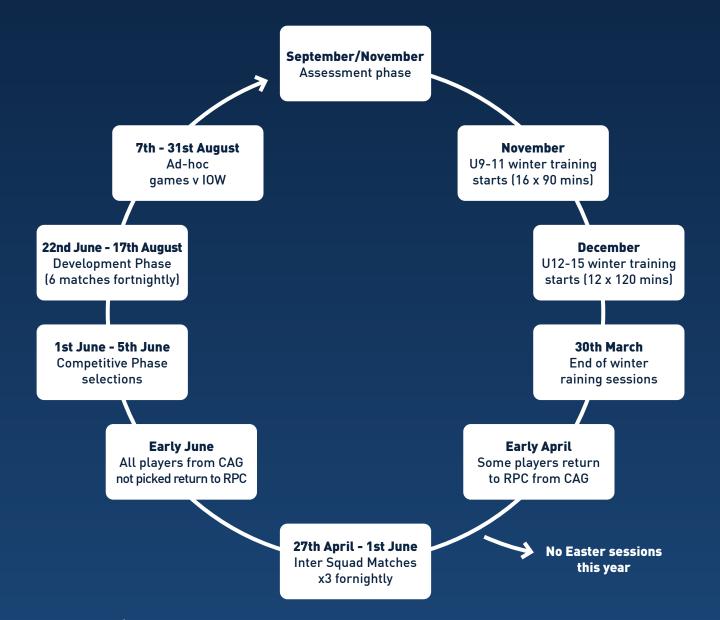
Will a player have the technical skills required to be able to play the game professionally and if so, will the differentiators they possess allow them to become a top player.



Training History

Can be difficult to find out, some research will often be required (how many hours of practice by a certain age) often players are ahead of others for this reason. Would player X be better if they had the same training history.

RPC Timeline (U9-15)



CAG Timeline (U12-16)







To create and maintain an environment where producing high class international cricketers and a hugely successful domestic team is inevitable.



We see the Academy as an integral part of what we do here at Hampshire Cricket. The aim of the Academy is to produce world-class international players who also deliver performances for Hampshire. For a number of years we have worked hard to develop a 1st XI with a core of home grown players. As such, the Hampshire Academy is a vital part of the club. In the past few seasons' key 1st XI players such as James Vince and Liam Dawson have progressed through the Academy and established themselves as high class Professional Cricketers. As a club we will continue to support all Academy Players and Coaches in the development of this type of individual.

Giles WhiteDirector of Cricket







Academy Objectives

- To identify and develop outstanding cricketers capable of performing at the highest level for Hampshire and England.
- To deliver cricketers fully prepared for 1st class cricket when they graduate from the Academy.
- To support all aspects of a players' development including technical, tactical, physical, mental and lifestyle.
- To make sure players leave the Academy knowing themselves better than when they arrived and with a good perspective on cricket and life.

Player Responsibilities & Expectations

- Commitment to Hampshire Cricket
- Attend all academy sessions & age group training/matches
- Undertake DiSE programme when appropriate
- Maintain workload diary
- Outstanding communication
- Fulfil commitments to community based activities
- Perform 12th man duties for the first team in T20/50-Over and Championship games

Additional Character Traits

- Honesty
- Respect
- Hard work
- Enjoyment
- Tough

- Reliable
- No excuses
- Zero blame
- Open/growth mindset





Specific Benefits Of Earning A Place In The Academy

- Individualised plan in place for 12 months with regular reviews
- Specific one to one coach in place with all highly qualified Hampshire coach's and support staff in batting, bowling, fielding, wicket keeping, strength & conditioning and mental skills
- Individual strength & conditioning programme, including nutrition, prehab/rehab and specific physical plans

- PCA workshops
- Mental toughness seminars
 & individual one-to-ones with
 a mental skills expert
- Private medical cover with rapid access to scans etc.
- Full kit including playing and training kit
- Opportunities to train with professional squad when appropriate
- Community based work

- Use of all world class training facilities at Utilita Bowl
- 12th man duties for 1st XI T20/50 over & championship matches
- Academy tour where possible
- Overseas placements (when appropriate)
- Academy mentor sessions

Programme Overview

| | WEEKDAYS | WEEKENDS |
|--------|--|---|
| WINTER | One to one and/or group sessions in batting/bowling/fielding/S&C/psychology Attend Group sessions and activities | Cricket sessions PCA workshops Strength & conditioning Psychologist 1-2-1s Psychologist group workshops |
| SUMMER | One to one schedule/group nets Appropriate age group/2nd XI playing programme Academy Playing programme | 18 Saturday Southern Premier League matches Sunday Academy T20 knockout competition ECB White ball competitions |

Hampshire Academy Intake 2024/25



Sam Ashman

RH batter, right arm seamer - U17

Wiltshire based Sam joins the Academy for his second year as an U17, having been on Swindon Towns
Academy until 2022, Sam now focuses his time and attention on being a top order batter for Hampshire.
Last season Sam played a lot of games across many formats, and began to get to grips with the higher level of games. His made his 2nd XI debut in 2023, with his batting highlight being his innings in an U18 game where he batted the entire day for his first 100 of the season. Many more to come in 2025 Sam.







Zack Basey

Leg spinner, right hand batter - U17

A modern leg spinner who can bat well, Zack gains selection onto the Academy for his first year after a successful 2023. Like Ben, Zack played at Bunbury and gained selection from this onto the ECB U17 representative teams. Zack is another player to join the Hampshire Pathway from the Dorset link. Looking forward to seeing Zack spin a web in 2025.







Oli Cordery

Right arm seamer, right hand batter - U17

Oli rejoins the Hampshire Academy in his U17 year. A seam bowler and lower order batter Oli is another Hampshire pathway product, coming through into the CAG squads through our bowling group programmes. Oli featured a lot across the U15's – U18's and Academy teams last season becoming a really dependable bowler in all teams. He excelled in the U18's championship side and made his 2nd XI debut in 2023. Good luck for 2025 Oli.







Finn Gordon

Left hand batter, off spinner - U17

Finn joins us for his first season on the Academy, having had a successful season for the U16's, U18's and Bashley 1st XI in 2023. A free-flowing left hand batter who bowls excellent off spin, Finn is another player who came across from the Dorset system to join our pathway a couple of years back. Very much looking forward to seeing more of Finn in the 2025 season, across all formats.







Manny Lumsden

Right arm seamer, right hand batter - U15

Manny is our youngest member of the squad. However, don't be fooled. With "Whispering Death" as his idol, Manny is a young quick of real note. Gaining selection for Bunbury a year young and really impressing everyone there Manny joins the Academy after an impressive 2023. Manny made his Academy an U18 debut last season as an U14. An all-round sportsman who has been in the Hampshire Pathway since an U7, were all excited to watch Manny bowl in 2025.







Ben Mayes

Right hand batter, right arm seamer - U16

Ben joins the Hampshire Academy for his first year.
Ben has been through the Hampshire pathway since
a very young age. A very exciting all-round sportsmen,
Ben has been selected to represent England in
Hockey over recent years. With some very impressive
performances last season in the Bunbury festival and
for the U18's / Academy teams, Ben gained selection
onto some ECB U17 representative teams in September
2023. A cross format cricketer who is three dimensional
and a real prospect for the future, we are all excited to
see more of Ben in 2025.







Oliver Williams

Right arm seamer, right hand batter - U16

After a successful U18 season ended with Oliver making his 2nd XI debut at Taunton Vale CC v Somerset last season, we are delighted to have him join us on the Academy for 2024/25. A tall seam bowling all-rounder who has recently applied his trade for Andover CC in the SPL. Oliver has been through our age group system and is a superb example of how late developers can join the Academy later in the pathway. He will debut for the Academy side this year in the SPL and I'm sure will make himself a valuable member of the team. We wish you all the best for the 2025 season Ollie.







Ibrahim Zafar

Right arm seamer, right hand batter - U16

We welcome this exciting young fast bowler to our Academy in 2025. A product of the successful Berkshire Pathway, Ibby brings pace and enthusiasm in abundance and we are very much looking forward to seeing what he is capable of come the first game in 2025. Welcome on board Ibby, and best of luck for the season.







The aim of the Hampshire Academy is to help players achieve their goals of playing cricket for Hampshire and England. It's the vehicle that hopes to turn potential into high quality. Within your time at Hampshire you will be challenged, face many up's and downs in life and in cricket.

Your ability to be resilient and response to adversity in a positive way will be crucial to your success in both areas. We will be here to support you throughout your journey with us. I ask you to leave nothing behind, enjoy all areas of the programme and become the best cricketer and human being you can be. Good luck and we all look forward to working with you.

Charlie Freeston

Head of Player Development & Talent Pathway





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Good luck for your time on the Academy, you are here because you can play and you are an important part in the future of Hampshire Cricket. Preparation is the single most important aspect of achievement, success takes heart, commitment and energy above and beyond the normal.

Prepare well and you can enter the match with a clear mind, the next ball comes down, play the right shot and enjoy it. Maximum effort here does not mean super exertion, it means concentration, determination and trusting your body to let it happen. Master your preparation and match play states and you will be ready to move to being a true champion, it's not just what you do that makes you successful it's also what you demand of the people around you.

Tony MiddletonAcademy Mentor





Congratulations on joining the academy for 2023/24. I hope you have a great year improving as a player and a person and contributing towards a successful Hampshire season with the academy, county age groups, U18s and hopefully the 2nd team. You are here because you have shown us good ability and good character.

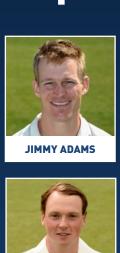
Now is the time to squeeze everything out of every session and every match. Prepare well, practice hard, stick at it when it gets tough, be positive and be very proud. I really look forward to working with you all on helping you become the best player and person you can be. Good luck and enjoy it.

James Tomlinson

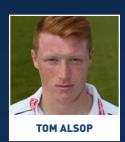
Player Development Manager/ Academy Seam Bowling Lead

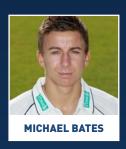


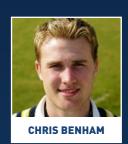
Academy/Pathway Graduates* Who Have Represented Hampshire's 1st XI









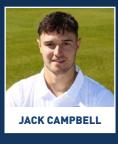
















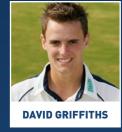




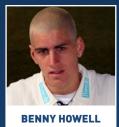
























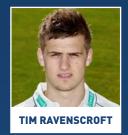






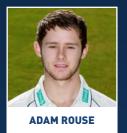




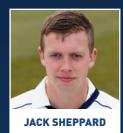


Academy/Pathway Graduates* Who Have Represented Hampshire's 1st XI





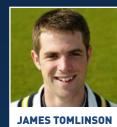






















Young LionsFrom The Hampshire Academy

2004 David Griffiths, Mitchell Stokes

2005 Mitchell Stokes

2006 Liam Dawson

2007 Liam Dawson

2008 Hamza Riazuddin, Chris Wood

2009 Chris Wood, Michael Bates, Danny Briggs, James Vince

2010 Adam Rouse, Jack Sheppard

2011 Jack Sheppard

2012 Tom Alsop, Tom Barber

2013 Tom Alsop, Tom Barber, Lewis McManus, Brad Taylor

2014 Tom Alsop, Brad Taylor

2015 Joe Weatherley, Mason Crane

2016 Josh McCoy

2017 Felix Organ, Tom Scriven

2018 Scott Currie

2019 George Metzger, Fletcha Middleton

2021 Tom Prest, Harry Petrie

2022 Eddie Jack, Dom Kelly

2023 Eddie Jack, Dom Kelly, Joseph Eckland

2024 Eddie Jack, Dom Kelly, Ben Mayes

2025 Eddie Jack, Ben Mayes



England DebutsFrom The Hampshire Pathway



Chris Tremlett

ODI | 21-06-2005 | v Bangladesh Test | 19-07-2007 | v India



Danny Briggs

ODI | 21-02-2012 | v Pakistan IT20 | 12-09-2012 | v South Africa



James Vince

ODI | 08-05-2015 | v Ireland IT20 | 26-11-2015 | v Pakistan Test | 19-06-2015 | v Sri Lanka



Mason Crane

IT20 | 21-06-2016 | v South Africa Test | 04-01-2018 | v Australia



Liam Dawson

ODI | 04-09-2016 | v Pakistan IT20 | 05-07-2016 | v Sri Lanka Test | 16-12-2016 | v India



John Turner

ODI | 31-10-2024 | v West Indies IT20 | 16-11-2024 | v West Indies

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Are you worried or concerned about anything?

TELL SOMEONE!

Parents O Coach O Hampshire Cricket Staff
Manager O Someone else that you trust

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Hampshire Cricket Safeguarding Officer 07552533692



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