

Child Protection Policy Statement

Keynsham RFC is committed to creating and maintaining the safest possible environment for children and young people to practice and play rugby.

We do this by :

- Recognising that all children have the right to freedom from any type of abuse.
- Ensuring that all staff and volunteers are carefully selected and accept responsibility for helping to prevent the abuse of children in their care.
- Responding swiftly and appropriately to all suspicions or allegations of abuse, and by providing parents and children with the opportunity to voice concerns they may have.
- Appointing a Child Protection Officer (CPO) who will take specific responsibility for child safety and act as the main point of contact for parents, children and outside agencies.
- Ensuring access to confidential information is restricted to the CPO or the appropriate external authorities.
- Reviewing the effectiveness of our Child Protection Policy and activities each year at our Annual General Meeting.

In order to accomplish these points we have adopted the following aims and objectives:

1. All coaches will attend an appropriate coaching course as soon as practicable when they begin work with children.
2. All coaches and volunteers will have a job description.
3. All coaches and assistant coaches are CRB vetted as a condition of holding this position.
4. We will encourage women to qualify as coaches.
5. A coach will not be appointed Head Coach of an age group until he/she has been trained to an appropriate level for the age group.
6. The Club will encourage and help all coaches and volunteers to stay up to date with rugby coaching and child protection issues. This will include attendance at relevant coaching and child protection courses.
7. All coaches and volunteers will be given a copy of the Club's Code of Conduct and will be expected to keep to it at all times.
8. Written records will be kept of attendance, parental consent, accidents and other incidents.
9. A written procedure will be readily available to enable coaches and volunteers to deal with accusations or suspicions of child abuse.
10. Keynsham RFC promotes 'Fair Play' and will ensure play occurs within the spirit of the laws and the letter of the continuum.
11. The Club will provide a written Health and Safety Policy which will cover fire procedures, first aid and emergency procedures, including telephone access.