

CHILD PROTECTION - PRACTICAL GUIDE FOR COACHES

ABERDEEN GRAMMAR RUGBY

2019-20

Aberdeen Grammar Rugby promotes a wide range of core values - teamwork, discipline, confidence and fun. Key to this is our commitment to child protection. Our Child Protection Policy and Recruitment Policy outline this commitment and are available on the Club website.

This practical guide provides coaches with advice on what to do if a concern arises about a child or young person.

Recognise: things to look out for

- A change in the child's behaviour e.g. becoming disruptive or unreasonable during sessions.
- Becoming anxious, lack confidence or are withdrawn and stop communicating Begin bullying other children
- Displaying sexual behaviour or language inappropriate for their age
- Are often hungry, may steal food, always tired
- Have inadequate clothing, are dirty, poor personal hygiene
- Have unexplained cuts and bruises or bite marks
- Self-harming or eating disorder
- Reluctance to change clothes for sport/activity or receive medical treatment such as physio
- Seem afraid of parents or carers, don't want to go home
- Are frightened to say what's wrong

Respond: how to respond

- React calmly
- Listen to what they say and don't show disbelief or disgust
- Reassure them they are not to blame and were right to tell you
- Avoid stopping them to go and get someone else – let them speak
- Avoid asking too many questions, just gather basic questions, who, where, when
- Don't give personal viewpoints
- Don't promise to keep it a secret, be clear that this is important and you have to tell someone else
- Reassure them they are not in any trouble

In all cases concerning a volunteer, the Child Protection Officer must be advised as soon as possible.

Report: share your concerns

If you consider a child or young person is at immediate risk of harm, contact Police Scotland on 999. In all other cases, contact the Child Protection Officer (contact details below).

Record: make a record of your concerns

Record your concerns even if it is only a rough note. This can help you recall what happened.

If you require any advice, information or guidance on child protection matters, please contact the Club Child Protection Officer who will be happy to assist. Contact details are below.

Contacts

Audrey Nicoll, Child Protection Officer, Mobile 07734 145 299

Police Scotland non-emergency no 101 or dial 999 in an emergency

Aberdeen City Social Work Joint Child Protection Unit 01224 306877

<https://www.aberdeencity.gov.uk/services/social-care-andhealth/contact-us-childrens-social-work>

**Aberdeen City Out of Hours Social Work Service tel 0800 7315 520
Monday to Thursday 1630 to midnight Weekends and public holidays
0830 to midnight**

<https://www.aberdeencity.gov.uk/services/social-care-andhealth/contact-us-social-work#2399>

