



**SAFEGUARDING POLICY FOR CHILDREN, YOUNG PEOPLE AND VULNERABLE ADULTS AT VESEYANS RUGBY  
TO BE READ & RETAINED BY SIGNEE FOR REFERENCE FOR 2022-23 SEASON**

1. Veseyans Rugby acknowledges its responsibility to safeguard the welfare of all children, young people and vulnerable adults involved in Veseyans Rugby from harm. Veseyans Rugby confirms that it adheres to the RFU safeguarding Policy. This policy should be read in conjunction with the RFU policy and does not replace nor supersede it.
2. A child or young person is anyone under the age of 18 engaged in any rugby union activity. Where a 17-year-old player is in the adult game, every reasonable precaution will be taken to ensure their safety and wellbeing are protected.
3. The Key Principles of the RFU Safeguarding Children & Vulnerable Adults Policy are that:
  - The welfare of the child or vulnerable adult (as appropriate) is, and must always be, paramount to any other considerations.
  - All participants regardless of age, gender, ability or disability, race, faith, culture, size, shape, language or sexual identity have the right to protection from abuse or harm.
  - All allegations or suspicions of abuse, neglect, harm and poor practice will be taken seriously and responded to swiftly, fairly and appropriately.
  - Working in partnership with other organisations, statutory agencies, parents, carers, children and young people is essential for the welfare of children and young people.
4. Veseyans Rugby recognises that all children have the right to participate in sport in a safe, positive and enjoyable environment whilst at the same time being protected from abuse, neglect, harm and poor practice. Veseyans RFC recognises that this is the responsibility of everyone involved, in whatever capacity, at the club.
5. Veseyans Rugby will implement and comply with the RFU Code of Conduct and the Codes of Conduct for Coaches, Spectators and Officials as appropriate. Veseyans Rugby will ensure its spectators, parents, members and officials are all aware of and have accepted the club Photographic Policy as set out on the club player registration form.
6. Veseyans Rugby will endeavour to comply with the Guidance for Websites as set out on the RFU website.
7. The Club Safeguarding Officer is Nicole Hau and Deputy Safeguarding Officer is Stuart Foxall. The Club Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) Lead is Marc Harries. If you witness or are aware of an incident or any Safeguarding disclosure made by a child/children, young person or vulnerable adult relating to Physical Abuse, Emotional Abuse, Sexual Abuse or Neglect where the welfare of a child/children, young person or vulnerable adult has been put at risk you must in the first instance inform the Club Safeguarding Officer immediately. If you feel a child/children, young person or vulnerable adult is at an immediate risk of harm you must not allow their release and inform the Club Safeguarding Officer immediately. If an incident involves the Club Safeguarding Officer you should inform the Head of Minis and Juniors, Tony Mitchell / Head of Micros and Tiny Vs, Andrew Payne or the RFU Safeguarding Executive.
8. All members of Veseyans Rugby who have a regular supervisory contact with children or a management responsibility for those working with children must undertake an RFU Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) check. It is a criminal offence to work with children, young people and vulnerable adults unsupervised without a DBS check.



9. Veseyans Rugby will ensure that all its members, whether they are coaches, parents, players or officials will comply with the Best Practice Guidance as issued by the RFU. In summary, the following are NOT acceptable and will be treated seriously by the club and may result in disciplinary action being taken by the Veseyans RFC or the RFU:
- a) Working alone with a child/children, young people or vulnerable adults.
  - b) Consuming alcohol whilst responsible for children, young people or vulnerable adults. This includes when parents are in situ or when operating in 'loco parentis' for the purposes of Rugby Camps etc.
  - c) Providing alcohol or allowing its supply to a child/children, young person or vulnerable adult.
  - d) Smoking whilst responsible for children, young people or vulnerable adults. This includes when parents are in situ or when operating in 'loco parentis' for the purposes of Rugby Camps etc.
  - e) Humiliating children, young people or vulnerable adults.
  - f) Inappropriate or unnecessary physical contact with a child/children, young people or vulnerable adult.
  - g) Participating in, or allowing, contact or physical games with children, young people or vulnerable adults.
  - h) Having an intimate or sexual relationship with any child, young person or vulnerable adult developed as a result of being in a 'position of trust.'
  - i) Making sexually explicit comments or sharing sexually explicit material.
10. Any written communication including, but not limited to text messages, messaging apps, social media to and between child/children, young person or vulnerable adult must adhere to and NOT facilitate Point 9a – i above. If any Veseyans Rugby coach, parent or official observes written communication referencing Point 9a – i above, you must in the first instance inform the Club Safeguarding Officer immediately.
11. Veseyans Rugby ensures all its coaches, parents, officials and spectators are aware that adults must not use the changing facilities and toilets at the same time as children, young people and vulnerable adults. Adults must only enter the changing room and toilet when absolutely necessary either due to poor behaviour, injury or illness. Adults entering the changing room must be accompanied by another DBS checked adult. The only exception to this is in an emergency and when waiting for another adult could result in harm to a child/children, young person or vulnerable adult. In cases where Veseyans coaches and officers are parents of a child/children, young person or vulnerable adult themselves, Point 11 is particularly important to maintain.
12. No pressure should be placed on a child, young person or vulnerable adult to change or shower with others, and should be allowed to shower and change at home.
13. Veseyans Rugby will ensure that its coaches, volunteers, officers, team administrators receive the support and training considered appropriate to their position and role with regards to Safeguarding children, young people and vulnerable adults.
14. Any events held on Veseyans Rugby premises must comply with this Policy and if appropriate a Safeguarding Plan should be discussed and circulated to those affected. Any tours, overseas or domestic, undertaken by Veseyans Rugby must comply with the relevant RFU Regulations and Guidance relating to tours.