



Policy statement relating to transporting children

The issue of transporting children is very sensitive for clubs and parents. OPM RFC appreciates that matches and events could not go ahead without the goodwill of volunteers and parents ensuring that children are returned home or transported to matches or training in a private car.

The vast majority of coaches and volunteers will help out through their genuine desire to see children participate and develop in Rugby. Unfortunately we must face the reality that a minority of others will join a club to gain access to children and create an air of acceptability about their role, justifying their close contact with children. Developing credibility is an essential part of any abusers 'grooming process'. Not only grooming the child but also grooming other coaches or parents ie. becoming the best volunteer. The last stage to enable someone to offend against a child is viewed as grooming the environment ie. creating a justifiable reason for getting the child alone.

OPM RFC's policy is that coaches and volunteers do not take children on journeys in their car alone ie. two adults should be in the car, and preferably more than one child.

If all alternatives have been exhausted and an adult has to transport a child alone there are a number of safety measures that should be in place to minimise the risk:

- The driver like all coaches/volunteers who have access to children in the organisation should have a valid DBS.
- Parents/guardians should be informed of the person who will be transporting their child, the reasons why and how long the journey will take.
- A person other than the planned driver should talk to the child about transport arrangements to check they are comfortable about the plans.
- The driver should attempt to have more than one child in the car and they should sit in the rear seats.
- When being transported children should wear an appropriate seatbelt that complies with current legislation and be instructed to behave responsibly in vehicles at all times.
- The driver should have access to a mobile phone and contact details for the parent/guardian of the children they are transporting.