



Child Protection in RASCALS Swimming Club.

RASCALS Swimming Club has an ongoing commitment to the safety and protection of children in swimming. We believe that children's welfare is everyone's responsibility particularly when it comes to protecting children from abuse. Everyone can help – administrator, club official, coach, teacher, parent, friend, or another child.

Abuse can happen anywhere, and the ASA protection procedures are based on the following principles:

The child's welfare is the first consideration.

All children, regardless of age, any disability they may have, gender, racial origins, religious belief and sexual identity have a right to be protected from abuse.

The ASA and RASCALS Swimming Club will support anyone who, in good faith, reports his or her concerns that a child is at risk of, or may actually be, being abused.

The four main types of abuse are physical, sexual, emotional or neglect. Please remember that it is not your responsibility to decide whether a child is being abused, but we are asking you to act on your concerns. Make a detailed note of what you have seen or heard and pass the information on immediately.

All Coaches and Teachers have received Child Protection training, and a good first source of advice is the Club Safety, Welfare and Child Protection Officer - Gail Ethleston. The ASA publishes Procedures and Guidelines for Child Protection, and these expand on this note, giving more details of each form of abuse, together with likely indications and advice as to what to do if you have concerns or a child tells you that he or she is being abused. Please feel free to ask Gail or Chris Willgoose for a copy.

Swim Line, on 0808 100 4001, is another good source of advice, where you can talk to someone who understands both swimming and the requirements of child protection.