



The College of Rugby

We are the first and only Further Education (“FE”) College based in a working Rugby Union Club (Sedgley Park RUFC, “the Club”), in the country. We work in partnership with YMCA, as our accredited provider, to deliver BTEC Level 3 Sport Extended Diploma (Sports Coaching and Development), to the age group post-16 to 19 students within the FE sector. We also work extensively with local primary schools, high schools, Schools’ Games Organisers and local authority sports coordinators, Pupil Referral Units (“PRU”) and SEND schools. We work extensively with the local community through various projects. We have been delivering at Park Lane, Whitefield (“the site”) since September 2019. We are also partnered with CIMSPA (Chartered Institute of Management for Sport and Physical Activity), and also are affiliated members of Lancashire RFU.

Existing presence at the Club

We operate between 9am and 4pm (school hours) Monday to Friday. We have no evening or weekend commitment on-site. All staff, and currently two (2) students, park on-site at the main Club. This is between five (5) and six (6) cars maximum. We are not on-site for approximately 17 weeks each year during school holidays. The current containers are currently used for storage and are stored on site to be moved to the proposed new site. We currently teach in the suites within the main Clubhouse.

Sedgley Park RUFC, Park Lane, Whitefield, Manchester, M45 7DZ

www.TheCollegeOfRugby.com



admin@TheCollegeOfRugby.com

We currently have 12 students, but this will double in August 2024. We are not attached to the Club and are an entirely separate entity. We are a Private Limited Company and are centrally funded, through YMCA, from the ESFA. As an educational establishment, we also maintain all the school holidays, amounting to roughly seventeen (17) weeks per year where we have no presence on-site. We also are not on-site on Bank Holidays or special events e.g. local religious holidays, etc

During the Covid-19 outbreak, we were the only operating organisation working on-site at the Club. This meant we had ample space in which to teach and train, which under the government guidelines we were allowed to do. However, in the last couple years, the Club has extended its facilities hire extensively to the point that, on occasion, we have found ourselves without a space in which to teach, despite paying rent. We also have no wet weather or comfort facilities on the proposed site on Phillips Park Road. On occasions where inclement weather forces us to stop training, we have to return to the main Clubhouse for shelter and this raises questions over student welfare and safeguarding. The extra space we are planning gives us a significant benefit in day-to-day operational best practice. It also gives us the option of using the proposed Cabins as shelter etc, when working with school children, some as young as years 2 and 3, when they attend the College of Rugby.

Proposed cabins

The proposed cabins will give us the freedom and flexibility to teach away from the main clubhouse, unhindered by the Club's ongoing commercial activities (as described above). They also are essential for student welfare and safeguarding in relation to adverse weather, time restraints caused by lack of available

Sedgley Park RUFC, Park Lane, Whitefield, Manchester, M45 7DZ

facilities on the main Club site and added student numbers (as described above). We operate within school times of 9am – 4pm. The presence of our staff and students does not extend beyond 4pm maximum.

Proposed car parking

We currently have a maximum, at any one time, of six (6) vehicles on site related to College activities. This generally is around three (3) per day. We therefore do not need any extended parking on the new proposed site. There is more than ample parking for all College activities at the main Club site where we currently park. At the moment, students walk round to the training pitches from the main Club site for training each day. This has been our normal daily operating practice since 2019 and will continue to be so. The issues and concerns raised by local residents are, we understand, a historical issue between the Rugby Club and the residents. In the evenings when club training takes place, and at the weekends when club matches take place, and these issues are most pertinent, The College of Rugby, it's students and staff, have no physical presence on site. No vehicles associated with College activity currently park on Phillips Park Road, or on the proposed site. At these contentious times, the issues raised by residents are a matter between the Rugby Club and the residents and are historically ongoing. To date, NO complaint has been raised to Sedgley Park Rugby Club either about or in connection with The College of Rugby and our daily activities! The College of Rugby's activities are entirely separate from those of Sedgley Park RUFC. We therefore have no input, connection, collaboration or working association with the activities of the Rugby Club or its members. We work entirely outwith the Rugby Club's operating status.



Rent

We pay a monthly rent (for which we are invoiced from the Club) to the Club, and this gives us access to on-site parking, teaching suites and three (3) full sized rugby pitches.

We are asking for temporary buildings status of between three (3) five (5) years, in accordance with Bury Council guidelines, as detailed in our Planning Application.