

Safeguarding and Child Protection Policy

1. The Purpose of the Safeguarding and Child Protection Policy

The school recognises that it has an explicit duty to safeguard and protect students from abuse as defined in the Children Act 2006 and the Education Act 2011. The overall intention and purpose behind the School's Safeguarding and Child Protection Policy is underpinned by the fundamental principle of the Children Act 2006 and the Safeguarding Vulnerable Groups Act 2006 and Keeping Children Safe in Education 2019. Our policy applies to all staff, governors and volunteers working in the school: **the welfare of the child is paramount.**

Everyone in the School shares an objective to help keep students safe by:

- Ensuring the School practises safe recruitment in checking the suitability of staff and volunteers to work with children.
- Raising awareness of child protection issues and equipping children with the skills needed to keep them safe.
- Developing and then implementing procedures for identifying and reporting cases, or suspected cases, of abuse.
- Supporting students who have been abused in accordance with his/her agreed child protection plan.
- Establishing a safe environment in which children can learn and develop.

2. School Commitment

- Establish and maintain an ethos where students feel secure and are encouraged to talk and are listened to.
- Ensure children know that there are adults in the school whom they can approach if they are worried.
- Include in the curriculum activities and opportunities for students to acquire skills and attitudes, to both resist abuse in their own lives and to prepare themselves for responsibilities, including parenthood, in their adult lives.
- Make known a clear model of management of suspected or disclosed abuse.
- Liaise with other agencies that support the student such as social care First Response, Child and Adult Mental Health Service (CAMHS), Education Welfare Service and Educational Psychology service.
- ALL children, regardless of age, disability, gender reassignment, race, religion or belief, sex or sexual orientation, have a right to equal protection from all types of harm or abuse.

3. Roles and Responsibilities

- Ensure the School has a designated senior person for child protection who has received appropriate training and support for this role. Training will be updated every two years.
- Ensure the School has a nominated governor responsible for Child Protection who will receive training every two years.
- All staff will be informed of their responsibilities to safeguard and promote the welfare of students and in being alert to the signs of abuse and the procedures for referring concerns to the Designated Person.
- All new staff will receive induction training and all staff will have refresher training at least annually with regular updates when necessary.
- Statistically students with behavioural difficulties and disabilities are more vulnerable to abuse. Members of staff need to be particularly sensitive to signs of abuse.
- The School will support staff by providing an opportunity to talk through their anxieties with the Designated Senior Person.

- Staff will have access to advice on the boundaries of appropriate behaviour.
- Ensure that any absence without satisfactory explanation, of a student currently on the child protection register is referred to First Response.
- Ensure that a named teacher is designated for Children in Care and that an up to date list of students is regularly reviewed and updated.
- Ensure that where a student leaves who is on the child protection register or for whom there have been previous Child Protection concerns, their information is transferred to the new school immediately.
- Ensure that safe recruitment practices are always followed and that Disclosure and Barring (DBS) checks are carried out on all staff and volunteers before they take up post and with adult visitors to the school if they are working in a non-supervised capacity.
- The Governing Board is responsible for ensuring the annual review of the Safeguarding and Child Protection Policy and completing the monitoring form of child protection activity within the school.

4. **Procedures**

Where it is believed that a student is suffering from, or is at risk of, significant harm, the School will follow the procedures set out in the South West Child Protection Procedures, which can be accessed at <https://www.proceduresonline.com/swcpp/>.

Parents/carers may access the School's Safeguarding and Child Protection Policy via the school website.

Written records of any concern regarding a child's safety will be kept in a file in a locked cabinet in the office of Assistant Head (Inclusion). Since September 2019 all concerns are to be logged electronically using the CPOMS system.

The School recognises that it does not have the responsibility to investigate cases of suspected child abuse.

The School will cooperate with relevant external agencies in any enquiries regarding child protection matters, including representation at case conferences, core groups and multi-agency planning meetings.

Parents/Carers will be advised of the intention to refer to Social Care/First Response and their views and cooperation sought, unless the School has good reason to believe that to do so would place a child at greater risk of harm.

All staff will make it clear to any child disclosing information that they cannot guarantee confidentiality, but they will only pass the information on to the people that can help them. Information concerning students at risk will be shared with all members of staff on a 'need to know' basis. The Designated Person will make a judgement in each individual case about who needs and has a right to access particular information.

Where there are concerns about a student, a teacher may be asked to keep a log of observations. This will be kept securely, separately from generally accessible student and class records. All records are subject to the Freedom of Information Act (2000) and the Data Protection Act (2018). If there is any doubt as to the rights of any party to access information, the School may seek legal advice prior to releasing any information.

5. **Relevant Documents**

- Southwest Child Protection Procedures on <https://www.proceduresonline.com/swcpp/>
- Keeping Children Safe in Education (2019)
- The Counter Terrorism and Security Act (2015)