



## **Child Protection Policy & Procedures**

### ***The Context***

Colleges, as well as schools, are obliged under the Children Acts 1989 and 2004 to provide assistance to the local authority in the investigation of child abuse.

The word “child” in this document and in the legislation refers to those under the age of 18 and to vulnerable young adults. This policy relates exclusively to the College’s own students (notwithstanding their age) and any other children involved in College activities.

### ***The Policy***

The aim of the policy is to protect children from further abuse and to raise the awareness of both teaching and support staff of the need for child protection, and of their responsibilities in identifying and reporting possible cases of abuse.

The College will address this aim by:

- emphasising the need for appropriate levels of communication between staff;
- developing a structured internal procedure to be followed by all members of staff in cases of suspected abuse;
- promoting understanding and building relationships with other agencies in order to work together more effectively;
- supporting and monitoring the child’s development and welfare in ways which will foster security, confidence and independence;
- including child protection issues within the pastoral curriculum.

The designated Safeguarding/Child Protection Officers shall be Rowan Johnson, Vice Principal (Student Services), Keith Johnston (Area Director) and two Guidance Support Tutors (Sue Hawthornthwaite and Brian Smuk)

### ***What is abuse?***

Abuse may be split into the following categories:

#### **Physical Abuse**

This may involve hitting, shaking, throwing, poisoning, burning, scalding, drowning, suffocating or otherwise causing physical harm to a child.

### **Emotional Abuse**

This refers to the persistent emotional ill-treatment of a child, such as to cause severe adverse effects on the child's emotional development, for example conveying to the child that they are worthless, unloved or inadequate. It may feature age or developmentally-inappropriate expectations.

### **Sexual Abuse**

This involves forcing or enticing a child to take part in sexual activities, which may or may not include penetrative acts, and may include non-contact activities, such as involving children in looking at pornographic material.

### **Neglect**

This is the persistent failure to meet a child's basic physical and/or psychological needs.

### **Procedures for members of staff**

The welfare of the child is paramount. Do remember that they have chosen you, the place and the time at which to tell you.

- Do ensure you do not promise confidentiality
- If a student tells a member of staff that abuse is taking place they should be acknowledged, taken seriously and **listened** to. It is important not to ask too many questions, but if you do, ask open questions;
- Write down the details;
- Try to reassure the student;
- Explain to the student that you have a **legal** obligation to pass this information on, to protect both them and possibly other members of the family and public;
- Get help and pass on the details and your record to one of the Safeguarding/Child Protection Officers who will treat the information with the utmost confidence – the “need to know” principle will be employed. It is their responsibility to decide what further action should take place. If we suspect from any information received that a child under 18 is in danger we have a duty to consider contacting Social Services.
- Keep the student informed of what you have done.
- Get help for yourself if you feel upset by any disclosure.
- Remember that in any group or class there may be a victim of abuse so sensitivity at all times is important.

#### **DO NOT:**

- Make promises you cannot keep;
  - Promise confidentiality;
  - Take the matter further yourself (ensure that you know your boundaries);
  - Contact the student's parents;
  - Contact any other agencies.

Effective child protection procedures should protect staff from malicious allegations as well as protecting children from abuse.

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