



Children and Vulnerable Adult Protection Policy Guidelines

Children and Vulnerable Adult Protection Policy Guideline Contents Summary	
	Page
Policy Statement	2
Roles and Responsibilities	3
Admission Procedures	3
Code of Behaviour	4 & 5
Child Abuse Guidelines	6
Safe Recruitment Procedure <i>(if applicable)</i>	6 & 7
Enhanced CRB/ DBS Disclosure	7
Sources of Further Information	7 & 8

POLICY STATEMENT

I / We recognise that we have an explicit duty to safeguard and protect children from abuse as defined in the Children Act 2004, the Education Act 2002 and the Safeguarding Vulnerable Groups Act 2006.

Everyone at our organisation shares an objective to help keep children, young people and vulnerable adults safe by:

- Providing a safe environment to learn in
- Identifying and responding to children, young people and vulnerable adults in need or support and / or protection
- Supporting children and young people's development in ways which will foster a sense of self esteem and independence



- Fostering a learning environment in which every pupil feels valued and able to articulate their wishes and feelings in their preferred method of communication in an atmosphere of acceptance and trust.

I / We will endeavour to ensure that children and vulnerable adults are protected from harm while they visit or are attending classes on our property. We will do this by:

1. Making sure our staff are recruited with integrity
2. Providing appropriate training for staff in issues of child and vulnerable adult protection
3. Carrying out checks and monitoring of all staff (including teaching staff, administrators and ancillary staff) which may require them to undergo an Enhanced Criminal Records Bureau disclosure
4. To establish and maintain an ethos where children and young people feel secure and are encouraged to talk, and are listened to
5. Taking all reasonable steps to ensure the health, safety and welfare of any child or vulnerable adult in contact with us
6. Not physically, emotionally or sexually abusing any child or vulnerable adult in contact with us
7. Taking all reasonable steps to prevent any staff member, persons working for us or member of the public from putting any child or vulnerable adult in a situation in which there is an unreasonable risk to their health and safety
8. Taking all reasonable steps to prevent any staff member, persons working for us or member of the public from physically, emotionally or sexually abusing any child or vulnerable adult
9. Reporting to the Principal any evidence or reasonable suspicion that a child or vulnerable adult has been physically, emotionally or sexually abused in contact with us or anyone in our organisation
10. Referring to statutory authorities all incidents reported to the Principal
11. Implementing this policy in conjunction with our Health and Safety guidelines already in place

Everyone working or applying to work for this organisation is to be made aware of our policy for children's welfare. Furthermore, this document should be issued to all staff and other people who are likely to have contact with children as part of their work with us. Copies of the policy will be held by the Principal.

ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES FOR ALL STAFF

These guidelines apply to:

- A situation involving children and young people up to age 18, whether or not accompanied by adults. We also recognise that vulnerable people of any age will benefit from similar safeguards. Wherever guidelines refer to children, this broader meaning applies
- All staff, contractors, freelance staff, volunteers and consultants working within our organisation or on our premises. In the case of contractors and consultants it is incumbent upon the Principal to ensure that they are made aware of these guidelines

GENERAL DUTIES FOR ALL STAFF



In regard to the safety and welfare of children and similarly vulnerable people all staff are required to:

- Agree to ongoing monitoring of their suitability for a position working with children and vulnerable adults which may include an Enhanced Criminal Records Bureau/ Disclosure and Barring Service Disclosure
- Take all reasonable steps to protect children from hazards
- Strictly observe the code of behaviour in this document
- Take prompt and appropriate action if an accident occurs
- Take all reasonable steps to prevent abuse of children in contact with anyone within the organisation
- Report any incident or suspicion of abuse promptly

ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES FOR ALL STAFF

- Safety of participants and staff is of prime consideration at all times
- All accidents involving anyone should be recorded in the organization's accident book or other formal recording system immediately or as soon as practicably possible
- Staff are responsible for familiarising themselves with building/facility safety issues, such as, fire procedures, location of emergency exits, location of emergency telephones and first aid equipment
- Staff are responsible for reporting suspected cases of child abuse to the named responsible person and/or agencies
- Appropriate staff should have access to any parent consent/emergency consent forms for all children taking part in any activities [this information should be confidential]
- Staff should ensure that their activities start and end on time
- Staff are expected to promote, demonstrate and incorporate the values of fair play, trust and ethics throughout their activities
- Staff should ensure that they are adequately insured, to protect against claims of negligence, through their organisation or their own personal insurance if acting as a self-employed agent

ADMISSION PROCEDURES

A register of names, addresses, next of kin and contact addresses and telephone numbers for emergencies will be kept.

Parents or carers, and where appropriate older children, will be given a copy of a written statement which specifies the action which will be taken in the event of a child becoming ill or being injured and which indicates that any information which suggests that a child has been abused will be passed on to the Social Services Department and/or the police.

CODE OF BEHAVIOUR FOR ALL STAFF

People working at our organisation must always observe the following requirements where children, young people or similarly vulnerable people are concerned.

Do and Do Not: Working with Children

DO:

- Behave professionally



- Listen to children
 - Treat everyone with respect
 - Communicate at an appropriate level
 - Be aware of policy and procedures
 - Report any suspicions within our guidelines
- Be aware, approachable and understanding

DO NOT:

- Harm a child or frighten a child
- Touch inappropriately
- Use inappropriate language
- Threaten, shout or be aggressive
- Force a child to do something they do not want to do
- Mistreat, demean, ignore, or make fun of
- Show favoritism to any one individual or groups of individuals
- Let a child expose him/herself to danger
- Make racist, sexist or any other remark which upset or humiliate
- Take photos of children without permission

Do and Do Not: Working with Vulnerable Adults

DO:

- Be respectful, responsible and professional
- Act in an appropriate manner
- Listen and communicate
- Use common sense; be caring, attentive and aware
- Be sympathetic to their needs
- Be aware of your responsibility
- Be aware of policy and procedures as outlined in this document

DO NOT:

- Treat vulnerable adults as children
- Engage in inappropriate behaviour
- Be aggressive or physically restrain
- Do anything of a personal nature they can do for themselves
- Place yourself in a vulnerable position

You have a strict duty never to subject any child to any form of harm or abuse. Failure to adhere to these procedures will be treated as gross misconduct.

PHOTOGRAPHING CHILDREN

Photographs of children should only be used if written consent has been obtained from a parent, guardian or, if referring to school groups, relevant school authority. General group photographs may be used if no individual can be identified by reason of any attached data. Permission should be obtained firstly to take the photograph and secondly for permission from the parent if the photograph is to be reproduced.

WHAT TO DO IF AN ACCIDENT HAPPENS



Depending on your judgment of the situation, go to the scene immediately if possible and/or summon First Aid assistance and/or contact the emergency services. With children it can be hard to assess whether they have been injured or the extent of the seriousness of an injury. If you have any doubt about this, you should err on the side of caution and contact the emergency services. Even if a child is accompanied and you think an accident is not being treated seriously

enough, get medical assistance on your own initiative if necessary. All accidents should be reported in the accident book.

CHILD ABUSE GUIDELINES

The NSPCC has a written document which outlines the requirements for professionals reporting child abuse in the United Kingdom.

To read this information, please follow the link below:

<https://www.nspcc.org.uk/preventing-abuse/>

The Department of Health web-site www.doh.gov.uk contains a practical guide to the law relating to child protection, particularly The Protection of Children Act 1999. The site also provides a publication entitled: "What to do if you're worried a child is being abused". This publication has been developed to assist practitioners to safeguard and promote the welfare of children. It sets out the process for safeguarding children. It is aimed at those who come into contact with children and families in their everyday work

SAFE RECRUITMENT PROCEDURE *(if applicable)*

In order to safeguard and promote the welfare of its pupils and ensure that risk of harm is minimised, our organisation employs a safe recruitment and selection policy which complies with national and local guidance. All recruitment procedures involve the following processes.

All successful applicants including teachers, freelance teachers, contractors, volunteers, administrative and ancillary staff, should undertake an Enhanced CRB/ DBS check where this is relevant and applicable. Employment records, references and qualifications will be verified for staff positions and references will be taken up for volunteers. All appointments are subject to these checks being satisfactory.

The Person Specification will state the competencies and qualities required by the successful candidate and will state that the interview will explore issues relating to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children. Additionally, for short-listed candidates, any relevant issues relating to the employment breaks or reference queries will be taken up at interview.

The information pack for candidates will include; the application form, job description, the Person Specification and the Children and Vulnerable Adults Protection Policy.

References will be sought before interviews take place. Open references and testimonials provided by applicants will not be accepted. No candidate will be appointed until a verified reference is received and scrutinized. For successful candidates, written references will be sought and verbally verified.

All applicants will undergo a face to face interview where questions pertaining to child protection will be asked.



All candidates will be asked to bring identity proof with them (e.g., a current driving licence or passport, a full birth certificate, plus a document such as a utility bill showing the candidate's current name and address).

All candidates will be asked to bring documents confirming any educational and professional qualifications relevant to the post.

All appointed staff will undergo an induction process which includes information and written statements of; policies and procedures in relation to safeguarding and promoting welfare e.g. child protection, anti-bullying, anti racism, physical intervention / restraint, internet safety and professional conduct.

For volunteers, close attention will be taken to why the applicant would like to work with children and young people and follow up questions will be necessary prior to the appointment being made.

All new employees/volunteers will go through a probation and induction process, including relevant training. Ongoing training and supervision will ensure all employees/volunteers are adequately supported.

ENHANCED CRB/DBS DISCLOSURE

All staff including teachers, freelance teachers, contractors, volunteers, administrative and ancillary staff should undertake an Enhanced CR/DBSB disclosure where this is deemed to be appropriate and relevant. It is strongly recommended that this is kept up-to-date. It is the Principal's responsibility to view the contents of the Enhanced CRB/DBS disclosure and make a decision about whether that staff member should be excluded from working with young people within their organisation.

SOURCES OF FURTHER INFORMATION

Statutory Guidance on inter-agency working to safeguard and promote the welfare of children:

In England this is Working together to safeguard children, and the local safeguarding children board's child protection procedures.

In Wales the All Wales child protection procedures and Safeguarding children: working together under the Children Act 2004.

In Northern Ireland Cooperating to safeguard children and Area Child Protection Committees' regional policy and procedures.

In Scotland the National Guidance for Child Protection in Scotland and the local Child Protection Committee's guidance.

The NSPCC is a registered charity established to prevent cruelty to children. Help line for concerns about a child's welfare. 0808 800 5000 [24 hours], website <https://www.nspcc.org.uk/preventing-abuse/child-protection-system/england/reporting-your-concerns/>.

Links to specific information about Children and Vulnerable Adult Policy can be found by visiting: <https://www.nspcc.org.uk/preventing-abuse/child-protection-system/england/legislation-policy-guidance/>