

NEW COLLEGE LEICESTER



Safeguarding Policy and Procedures

January 2010

SAFEGUARDING POLICY

New College recognises its responsibility for Child Protection.

The College's policy applies to all staff, governing body members and volunteers working in the college and focuses on five main elements:

1. Staff recruitment and selection - ensuring that all staff (volunteers etc.) who have unsupervised access to children and young people, have been appropriately checked for their suitability through the CRB procedures
2. Raising awareness of child protection issues and equipping young people with the skills needed to keep them safe
3. Developing and implementing procedures for identifying and reporting cases, or suspected cases of abuse
4. Supporting students who have been abused
5. Establishing a safe and nurturing environment free from discrimination or bullying where young people can learn and develop happily

We recognise that because of the day-to-day contact with young people, school staff are ideally placed to observe the outward signs of abuse and staff in school, therefore they will:

- Report any inappropriate behaviour/activities to designated child protection officer: Alan Maddox
- Establish and maintain an environment where young people feel secure, are encouraged to talk and be listened to.
- Ensure that young people know that they can approach any of the adults in school if they are worried and they will receive a consistent supportive response
- Include in the curriculum opportunities via the PSHE curriculum for young people to develop the skills they need to recognise and stay safe from abuse

Staff in New College will follow the Leicester City Area Child Protection Committee Procedures in all cases of abuse or suspected abuse and have regard to the statutory obligations placed on them by Section 175 of the 2002 Education Act. We will therefore:

- Ensure that we have a designated teacher for child protection: Alan Maddox
- Ensure that the IEB of New College are aware of their responsibility to safeguard the welfare of students in the school
- Ensure that every member of staff, volunteers and governors know who the designated teacher is and what the responsibilities are
- Ensure that all staff and volunteers understand their responsibilities in being alert to, and acting appropriately in, cases of abuse or suspected abuse
- Ensure that parents understand the school's responsibilities in relation to child protection by setting out these obligations in the school prospectus
- Inform Health and Social Care if a student, whose name is on the Child Protection Register, has unexplained absence of more than 2 days
- Establish and maintain links with relevant agencies and co-operate as required with enquiries of a child protection nature

- Ensure that where possible, appropriate staff attend case conferences on young people in our school
- Keep accurate written records of concerns on young people even where referral is not immediately appropriate
- Ensure that all child protection records are kept secure and confidential and separate from the main student file
- Ensure that all staff/volunteers are selected and recruited by going through appropriate checks
- Ensure that all staff, IEB members and volunteers understand that there is a procedure to be followed in dealing with child protection allegations made against teaching and non-teaching staff. This procedure must be followed on all occasions. All staff should be made aware of this process
- Follow the local authority guidance on reporting and tracking lost students
- Ensure that this policy on Child Protection is reviewed annually and is in line with Leicester's ACPC policy
- Ensure safe recruitment practices are always followed
- Recognise that young people who are abused, or witness violence, may find it difficult to develop a sense of self-worth. They may feel helplessness, humiliation and some sense of blame. The school may be the only stable, secure and predictable element in the lives of young people at risk. When at school, their behaviour may be challenging and defiant or they may be withdrawn. The school will endeavour to support the student through:
 - The content of the curriculum
 - The school ethos, which promotes a positive, supportive and secure environment and gives students a sense of being valued
 - The School Behaviour Policy, which is aimed at supporting vulnerable students in the school. The school will ensure that the student knows that some behaviour is unacceptable but they are valued and not to be blamed for any abuse which has occurred
 - Liaison with other agencies that support the student such as Social and Health Care, Education Social Work Service and Educational Psychology Service
 - Ensuring that, when a student on the Child Protection Register leaves, their information is transferred to the new school immediately and that the child's social worker is informed

It is noted that the provisions of Section 175 of the Education Act 2002, place a general duty on New College to provide the welfare of children and young people in our care and, as such, staff will adhere to other related school policies, i.e. Behaviour Policy, Anti-Bullying Policy, etc.

DISSEMINATION OF THE POLICY

The policy statement is available on request to all parents/carers or other interested bodies.

REVIEW

This policy will be reviewed annually and amended as necessary.