

Strode's College Egham

Safeguarding and Child Protection Policy

1. Policy statement

- 1.1 The Governing Body takes seriously its responsibility under section 175 of the Education Act 2002 to safeguard and promote the welfare of children and young people; and to work together with other agencies to ensure adequate arrangements within the College to identify, assess, and support those children who are suffering harm.
- 1.2 The College recognises that all staff including temporary staff, volunteers and governors, have a full and active part to play in protecting our students from harm, and that the young person's welfare is our paramount concern.
- 1.3 This policy has been developed in accordance with the principles established by the Children Act 1989 and is in line with *Keeping Children Safe in Education September 2016* (Department for Education) and *Working Together to Safeguard Children 2015* (Department for Education). It also takes account of the *Prevent Duty Guidance for further education institutions in England and Wales July 2015* and the March 2016 update (Department for Education).
- 1.4 This policy should be read in conjunction with the safeguarding procedures (2016-17) which give details of how the College manages issues concerned with Safeguarding and Child Protection.

2. Scope

- 2.1 This policy covers all young people under 18, including students and prospective students under 18 years of age enrolled on full and part time courses, visitors to the college (under 18), employees, work experience students or volunteers who are under 18 and 'vulnerable adults'.

N.B. A vulnerable adult refers to any person over the age of 18 who amongst other indicators:

- Is or may be in need of community care services by reason of mental or other disability, age or illness.
- Is or may be unable to take care of himself or herself.
- Is or may be unable to protect himself or herself against significant harm* or serious exploitation.

*Significant harm covers the four categories of harm applied to children (i.e. physical, sexual, emotional and neglect), but also includes serious financial or material exploitation.

Students who are potentially vulnerable because of their learning difficulty and/or disabilities, regardless of age, are also covered by this policy.

3. Aims

- 3.1 To provide a safe learning environment for our students.
- 3.2 To promote the safety and welfare of our students.

- 3.3 To address concerns about the safety and welfare of our students by providing procedures that:
- Identify and respond to students who are at risk of harm
 - Manage child protection concerns raised by staff or students
 - Ensure safe recruitment of staff
 - Work effectively and share information as appropriate with Local Safeguarding Children Boards and other agencies
 - Manage allegations against staff and protect them from malicious complaints
 - Equip all staff to deal with their responsibilities through appropriate awareness raising and training

4. Responsibilities

- 4.1 The Governing Body is responsible for ensuring that the College has appropriate policies in place for safeguarding, child protection, safe recruitment of staff and dealing with allegations of abuse against staff. A designated Governor will take a leading role in ensuring that governors carry out these responsibilities.
- 4.2 The Principal has responsibility for ensuring that the policy and procedures are implemented; for ensuring that staff are competent to carry out their responsibilities for safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children; and creating an environment where staff feel able to raise concerns and feel supported in their safeguarding role.
- 4.3 The Assistant Principal Student Services is the Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL) and is responsible for monitoring the policy and procedures and leading the Safeguarding Team in implementing the procedures. The DSL will receive statutory training every two years, to the appropriate standard and in addition, keep up to date with safeguarding developments at least annually. The Principal is the Senior Leadership Team safeguarding lead.
- 4.4 The Safeguarding Team is responsible for implementing the safeguarding procedures. The membership of this team includes the Director of Tutoring, Tutor Team Leaders (TTLs), the Support for Learning Manager and senior staff from Student Services.
- 4.5 All staff and volunteers have responsibility for following the Child Protection and Safeguarding procedures, promoting the welfare of students, and participating in training every three years, to the appropriate standard.
- 4.6 All students have a responsibility for their own safety and that of others, and are expected to report incidents of concern.

5. Monitoring and Review

- 5.1 The DSL will provide an annual safeguarding report for the Governing Body.
- 5.2 The effectiveness of the policy will be monitored by the DSL who will report to the Senior Leadership Team should any amendments be required. The policy will be reviewed annually (or earlier if required) taking into account any changes in legislation.

6. Legal Considerations and Relationship with other policies and procedures

- Acceptable Use of Computer Agreement
- Bullying and Harassment Policy
- Complaints Policy
- Digital Images Guidelines
- Disciplinary (Misconduct and Capability) Policy
- E-Safety Policy
- eSafety & Social Media Pocket Guide for Staff
- Health and Safety Policy
- Information Policy
- Instrument and Articles of Government
- *Keeping Children Safe in Education September 2016 (Department for Education)*
- Safeguarding Procedures 2016-17
- Staff Code of Professional Practice
- Staff Recruitment Policy and Procedures
- Student Contract
- Student Privacy Statement
- Whistleblowing Policy & Procedure (Confidential Reporting)
- *Working Together to Safeguard Children 2015 (Department for Education)*