

SAFEGUARDING & CHILD PROTECTION POLICY

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POLICY LEAD	Matt Phillips	
POLICY AUTHOR (if different from above)		

Full version available on request

POLICY CONTEXT

- This Safeguarding and Child Protection Policy sets out the campus's commitment to Safeguarding and Promoting the Welfare of Children and Keeping Children Safe in Education.
- At Focus School Wilton Campus we will provide a safe and welcoming environment where every child and young person is respected and valued. It is the responsibility of everyone to be alert to the signs of abuse and neglect in all its forms and to follow the procedures in place to ensure that children receive timely and effective support, protection and justice.
- The purpose of this policy and procedures is to provide clear priorities for safeguarding and promoting students' welfare in accordance with our moral duty and statutory guidance.

POLICY REQUIREMENT (see Section 2)

- This Policy applies to all staff, trustees, volunteers, visitors and parents of both current and prospective students in the Campus. The Policy and Procedures are consistent with those of the Local Safeguarding Children Board. The Policy is available on the school website and is made available to all staff, trustees, volunteers, parents both current and prospective and visitors to the school.
- The requirements of this policy are to:
 1. Make certain that the schools responsibility to safeguard and promote the welfare of children is of paramount importance
 2. Protect children and others from maltreatment or harm – in all it's forms - and keep children safe
 3. Make individual responsibilities crystal clear - in identifying and reporting possible cases of abuse
 4. Provide a systematic means of monitoring, recording and reporting of concerns and cases
 5. Provide guidance on recognising and dealing with suspected child abuse and advise precisely what to do if anyone has a concern about a child's welfare
 6. Provide a framework for inter-agency communication and effective liaison
 7. Identify strategies and early help interventions available to support children at risk
 8. Ensure that any deficiencies or weaknesses in child protection arrangements are remedied without delay
 9. Ensure that safe recruitment procedures are implemented
 10. Comply with locally agreed inter-agency procedures and National Guidance

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1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Rationale

1.1.1 This Safeguarding and Child Protection Policy sets out the campus's commitment to Safeguarding and Promoting the Welfare of Children and Keeping Children Safe in Education. This policy is one of a series of associated policies in place within the campus.

1.1.2 At Focus School Wilton Campus we recognise our moral and statutory responsibility to safeguard and promote the welfare of all students. We endeavour to provide a safe and welcoming environment where children are respected and valued. We are alert to the signs of abuse and neglect, in all of its forms. We follow stringent procedures to ensure that children receive effective education, support, protection and justice.

Statutory Guidance

1.1.3 The **Teacher Standards 2012** state that teachers, including Head Teachers, should safeguard children's wellbeing and maintain public trust in the teaching profession as part of their professional duties.

1.1.4 The DfE Guidance, **Keeping Children Safe in Education (2016)**, sets out the legal duties and procedures and will be implemented at Focus School Wilton Campus. This includes procedures related to Regulated Activity, pre-employment checks including DBS checks, volunteers and allegations against staff.

1.1.5 **Keeping Children Safe in Education, September 2016** guidance is applied at Focus School Wilton Campus alongside **Working Together to Safeguard Children, A Guide to Inter-agency Working issued March 2015** which emphasises that effective safeguarding systems are those where:

- The **child's needs are paramount**, and the needs and wishes of each child should be put first, so that every child receives the support they need before a problem escalates
- **All professionals who come into contact with children and families** are alert to their needs and any risks of harm that individual abusers, or potential abusers, may pose to children
- **All professionals share appropriate information in a timely way** and can discuss any concerns about an individual child with colleagues and local authority children's social care
- **High quality professionals are able to use their expert judgement** to put the child's needs at the heart of the safeguarding system so that the right solution can be found for each individual child
- **All professionals contribute to whatever actions are needed** to safeguard and promote a child's welfare and **take part in regularly reviewing the outcomes** for the child against specific plans and outcomes
- **Local areas innovate** and changes are informed by evidence and examination of the data, serious case reviews and thematic case reviews.

1.1.6 In addition, other key guidance underpins our policy and procedures for keeping children safe. In particular:

- Prevent Duty Guidance: for England and Wales, 2015
- DfE Children Missing in Education (September 2016)
- The UKCCIS (2016) guidance 'Sexting in Schools and Colleges: responding to incidents and safeguarding young people'.

- 1.1.7 This policy and procedures aims to outline the role that the Campus will have, the procedures that staff should take and guidance on issues related to child protection generally. It is not exhaustive. All staff should consider sensitively the needs and safety of the child as being at the centre of any decision they make.
- 1.1.8 In most cases this will be the referral of concerns to the Designated Safeguarding Lead or Deputy Designated Safeguarding Lead. For concerns about adults who work with our students, the Head Teacher should be informed immediately. In day-to-day contact with children at risk, staff have an opportunity to note concerns and to meet with parents and other associated adults.

1.2 Scope

- 1.2.1 This Policy and Procedures applies to all staff, trustees, volunteers, visitors and parents of both current and prospective students in the Campus.
- 1.2.2 The Policy and Procedures are consistent with those of the Local Safeguarding Children Board.
- 1.2.3 The Policy is available on the school website and is made available to all staff, trustees, volunteers, parents both current and prospective and visitors to the school as appropriate.
- 1.2.4 The Safeguarding Audit (Checklist) will be completed at least once per term or when there has been a change of policy or staffing; all resulting actions must be resolved immediately.

1.3 Principles

- 1.3.1 The Campus/Trust positively supports individuals with learning development needs and ensures that no student is prevented from accessing a broad and balanced curriculum. Staff will work collaboratively with colleagues from learning development services and other organisations, in order to ensure that students have a positive and progressive educational experience
- 1.3.2 At Focus School Wilton Campus, we never believe 'it won't happen here'. To properly safeguard all of our children and young people, we will always consider the unthinkable and we will report every concern, including a 'nagging doubt', in line with our procedures. Effective safeguarding arrangements at Focus School Wilton Campus will be underpinned by our **three key principles**:
- **A child-centred approach.** The welfare and needs of children are paramount in all circumstances.
 - Safeguarding and child protection is **everyone's responsibility**
 - **Highly effective and timely Communication** at all times
- 1.3.3 Our organisational culture will be one of **highly consistent and collective vigilance** for the safety and wellbeing of the children in our care, for every child every day. Our collective threshold for reporting concerns of all types – be it related to behaviour of adults or concerns about children and families – needs to be low. Even nagging doubts may build into a pattern of information which is concerning. We all have a duty to bring forward concerns confidentially and in line with the policy.
- 1.3.4 At Focus School Wilton Campus we will provide a safe environment for students both under and over 18 especially those who are considered vulnerable.
- 1.3.5 We will provide all staff with the necessary information to enable them to meet their child protection responsibilities, ensure consistent good practice and demonstrate our commitment with regard to Child Protection to students, parents and other partners.

1.3.6

2 POLICY

- 2.1** This Safeguarding and Child Protection Policy sets out the campus's commitment to Safeguarding and Promoting the Welfare of Children and protecting children from abuse in Education. This policy is one of a series of associated policies in place within the campus.
- 2.2** At Focus School Wilton Campus we recognise our moral and statutory responsibility to safeguard and promote the welfare children. We are committed to ensuring safeguarding practice reflects statutory responsibilities, government guidance and complies with best practice. We are alert to the signs of abuse and neglect and follow our procedures to ensure that every child receives effective support, protection and justice.
- 2.3** Safeguarding is everyone's responsibility and effective safeguarding arrangements at Focus School Wilton Campus will be underpinned by three key principles:
- 2.3.1 A child-centred approach.** The **welfare and needs of children are paramount** in all circumstances.
- 2.3.2 Everyone** employed and who comes into contact with children at Focus School Wilton Campus has a responsibility in relation to safeguarding and to act on any suspicion or disclosure that may suggest a child is at risk of harm.
- 2.3.3 Communication** about child protection and safeguarding issues will be timely, clear and will follow statutory guidance from Wiltshire LSCB. Information sharing will ensure communication with all stakeholders has been considered. Decisions about information sharing will be made carefully, checked with external children's services agencies and recorded.
- 2.4** Focus School Wilton Campus acknowledges that some children, including disabled children and those with Special Educational Needs, can be particularly vulnerable to abuse and we accept the responsibility to take reasonable and appropriate steps to ensure their welfare.
- 2.5** As part of our safeguarding policy Focus School Wilton Campus will:
- 2.5.1** Promote and prioritise the safety and wellbeing of children and young people
- 2.5.2** Provide a safe environment for students both under and over 18 especially those who are considered vulnerable.
- 2.5.3** Ensure everyone understands their roles and responsibilities in respect of safeguarding and is provided with appropriate learning opportunities to recognise, identify and respond to signs of:
- physical, emotional and sexual abuse
 - neglect
 - Peer to peer abuse, such as; bullying (including cyber bullying), gender based violence, sexual assaults and sexting.
 - Female Genital Mutilation (FGM), including mandatory reporting to the Police
 - Honour Based Violence (HBV)
 - Radicalisation and extremism
 - Children missing education
 - and other safeguarding concerns relating to children and young people

Ensure that everyone appreciates the importance and advantages of Early Help and intervention.

Ensure that everyone understands the staff Safeguarding 'Code of Conduct' and procedure for allegations against adults.

- 2.5.4** Ensure appropriate action is taken in the event of incidents/concerns of abuse; which is report the matter to the DSL using the safeguarding concern form; or alternatively it can be reported directly to the local Multi-agency Safeguarding Hub 0300 456 0108.

Ensure support is provided to the individual/s who raise or disclose the concern.

Ensure concerns about a colleague are reported using the allegations about staff procedure

- 2.5.5** Ensure that confidential, detailed and accurate records of all safeguarding concerns are maintained and securely stored

- 2.5.6** Prevent the employment/deployment of unsuitable individuals

- 2.5.7** Ensure robust safeguarding arrangements and procedures are in operation.

- 2.6** The policy and procedures will be widely promoted and are mandatory for everyone involved in Focus School Wilton Campus. Failure to comply with the policy and procedures will be addressed without delay and may ultimately result in dismissal/exclusion from the organisation.

Monitoring

- 2.7** The Safeguarding Audit (Checklist) will be completed at least once per term or when there has been a change of policy or staffing; all resulting actions must be resolved immediately.

- 2.8** The policy will be reviewed a year after development and then every three years, or in the following circumstances:

- 2.8.1** changes in legislation and/or government guidance

- 2.8.2** as required by the Local Safeguarding Children Board or education regulators

- 2.8.3** as a result of any other significant change or event.

- 2.9** This policy and procedures aims to outline the role that the Campus will have, the procedures that staff should take and guidance on issues related to child protection generally. It is not exhaustive. All staff should consider sensitively the needs and safety of the child as being at the centre of any decision they make.

Role	Name	Telephone	Email
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