



CHILD PROTECTION POLICY

1. Introduction

West Nottinghamshire College fully recognises its responsibilities for child protection. Our aim is to create a safe environment where students can learn and develop. In accordance with the Children Act 1989 and 2004, a **child** is any person who has not yet reached their 18th birthday. This policy applies to all staff, governors and volunteers working in the College.

2. Principles

There are five main elements to our policy:

- Ensuring we practice safe recruitment in checking the suitability of staff and volunteers to work with children.
- Raising awareness of child protection issues and equipping children with the skills needed to keep them safe.
- Developing and then implementing procedures for identifying and reporting cases, or suspected cases, of abuse.
- Supporting students who have been abused in accordance with his/her agreed child protection plan.
- Establishing a safe environment in which children can learn and develop.

3. Duties under the Children Act 2004

We recognise that because of the day to day contact with children, College staff are well placed to observe the outward signs of abuse. The College will therefore:

- Establish and maintain an environment where children feel secure, are encouraged to talk, and are listened to.
- Ensure children know that there are staff in the College whom they can approach if they are worried.
- Include opportunities in the group tutorial curriculum for children to develop the skills they need to recognise and stay safe from abuse.

4. Responsibilities

We will follow the procedures set out by the Local Safeguarding Children Board and take account of guidance issued by the Department for Education and Skills to:

- Ensure we have a designated senior person for child protection who has received appropriate training and support for this role.
- Provide a Child Protection Team who receive updated training every 2 years
- Ensure we have a nominated governor responsible for child protection.
- Ensure every member of staff (including temporary and supply staff and volunteers) and the governing body receive training every 3 years and knows the name of the designated senior person responsible for child protection and their role.

- Ensure all staff and volunteers understand their responsibilities in being alert to the signs of abuse and responsibility for referring any concerns to the designated senior person responsible for child protection.
- Ensure that parents have an understanding of the responsibility placed on the College and staff for child protection by setting out its obligations in the College prospectus.
- Notify Children's Social Care if there is an unexplained absence of more than two days of a student who is on the child protection register.
- Develop effective links with relevant agencies and co-operate as required with their enquiries regarding child protection matters including attendance at case conferences.
- Keep written records of concerns about children, even where there is no need to refer the matter immediately.
- Ensure all records are kept securely, separate from the main student file, and in locked locations.
- Develop and then follow procedures where an allegation is made against a member of staff or volunteer.
- Ensure safe recruitment practices are always followed.

5. Aims and Values

We recognise that children 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 college may be the only stable, secure and predictable element in the lives of children at risk. When at college their behaviour may be challenging and defiant or they may be withdrawn. The college will endeavour to support the child through:

- The content of the curriculum.
- The College ethos which promotes a positive, supportive and secure environment and gives children a sense of being valued.
- The college behaviour policy which is aimed at supporting vulnerable children in the college. The college will ensure that children know 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 children such as Children's Social Care, Child and Adult Mental Health Service, Education Welfare Service, Educational Psychology Service and Connexions