

## Safeguarding Children and Young People Protection Policy

### 1. The purpose and scope of this policy statement

#### 1.1 The purpose of this policy statement is:

- to protect vulnerable adults, children and young people who receive services from the College from harm
- to ensure the provision of a safe learning environment, and where applicable, living environment, for all our learners and recognise that the College, and its staff, form part of a wider safeguarding system for children, young people and vulnerable adults
- to provide staff and volunteers, as well as children and young people and their families, with the overarching principles that guide our approach to child protection
- to provide staff with the framework to promote and safeguard the wellbeing of students and in so doing ensure they meet their statutory responsibilities.

#### 1.2 This policy applies to anyone working on behalf of the College, including Senior Managers and the Governing Body, paid staff, volunteers, sessional workers, agency staff and students

#### 1.3 The College will:

- establish a safe environment within which children and young people can learn and develop
- support children and young people who have been, or are, at risk of significant harm
- ensure we practice safe recruitment in checking the suitability of all staff and volunteers who work at the College
- carry out regular child protection and safeguarding / prevent training, in line with legal requirements.
- publish and implement clearly defined procedures for identifying and reporting cases, or suspected cases of abuse.
- develop and promote effective working relationships with other agencies, especially the Police and Children's Services.

### 2. Legal Framework

#### 2.1 This policy has been drawn up on the basis of legislation, policy and guidance that seeks to protect children in England.

- Children Act 1989 and 2004
- Children and Social Work Act (2017)
- Every Child Matters Green Paper (2003)
- The Mental Capacity Act (2005)
- Safeguarding Vulnerable Groups Act (2006)
- Counter-Terrorism and Security Act (2015)
- Working Together to Safeguard Children (2018)
- Care Act (2014)
- Keeping Children Safe in Education (2020) (Update January 2021 – Post EU Exit)
- Prevent Duty
- No Secrets Guidance (2000)
- Missing Children and Adults Strategy

## **2.2 We believe that:**

- the welfare of children and young people is paramount in all the work that we do
- children and young people have a right to feel secure and cannot learn effectively unless they do so
- all children and young people, regardless of age, gender, race, ability, sexuality, religion, culture or language have a right to be protected from harm
- in all the decisions that we take, all children and young people, regardless of age, disability, gender reassignment, race, religion or belief, sex, or sexual orientation have an equal right to protection from all types of harm or abuse
- all staff have a key role in prevention of harm and an equal responsibility to act on any suspicion or disclosure that may indicate a student is at risk of harm

## **2.3 We recognise that:**

- some children and young people are additionally vulnerable because of the impact of previous experiences, their level of dependency, communication needs or other issues
- working in partnership with other agencies protects and reduces risk and so we will engage in partnership working throughout the child protection process to safeguard children and young people.

## **2.4 We will seek to keep children and young people safe by:**

- valuing, listening to and respecting them
- appointing a Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL) for children and young people
- appointing Deputy Designated Safeguarding Leads to serve all of our campuses
- appoint a lead board member for safeguarding
- adopting child protection and safeguarding best practice through our policies, procedures and code of conduct for staff and volunteers

- developing and implementing an effective online safety policy and related procedures
- providing effective management for staff and volunteers through supervision, support, training and quality assurance measures so that all staff and volunteers know about and follow our policies, procedures and behaviour codes confidently and competently
- recruiting and selecting staff and volunteers safely, ensuring all necessary checks are made
- recording, storing and using information professionally and securely, in line with data protection legislation and guidance
- sharing information about safeguarding and good practice with children and young people and their families via leaflets, posters, group work and one-to-one discussions
- making sure that children, young people and their families know where to go for help if they have a concern
- using our safeguarding and child protection procedures to share concerns and relevant information with agencies who need to know, and involving children, young people, parents, families and carers appropriately
- using our procedures to manage any allegations against staff and volunteers appropriately
- creating and maintaining an anti-bullying environment and ensuring that we have a policy and procedure to help us deal effectively with any bullying that does arise
- ensuring that we have effective complaints and whistleblowing measures in place
- ensuring that we provide a safe physical environment for our children, young people, staff and volunteers, by applying health and safety measures in accordance with the law and regulatory guidance
- building a safeguarding culture where staff and volunteers, children, young people and their families, treat each other with respect and are comfortable about sharing concerns.

This policy was last reviewed on:

1 December 2021