



Inspiring Learners for their future

The Ridgeway School & Sixth Form College

**CHILD
PROTECTION
POLICY &
PROCEDURES**

UPDATED OCTOBER 2010

Consultation History

Governors/staff/parents/students	Date
Executive (Leadership Group)	
Curriculum Committee	
Full Governing Body	
Next Review of Policy	

The Ridgeway School & Sixth Form College

Child Protection Policy

The Ridgeway School and Sixth Form College fully recognises and takes seriously its responsibilities to protect and safeguard the welfare of the children and young people in its care

“The welfare of the child is paramount” Children Act 1989

All action is taken in line with the following legislation/guidance:

- South West Child Protection Procedures (SWCPP)
- Section 175 Children Act 2002
- Safeguarding Children in Education September 2004
- Working Together to Safeguard Children 2006
- What to do if you're worried a child is being abused 2006
- Safeguarding Children and Safer Recruitment in Education 2007

The Child Protection Policy should be read in conjunction with other policies: Positive Handling; Anti-Bullying; Race Relations Policy; Equal Opportunities: Behaviour for Learning Policy; Health and Safety

The Child Protection Co-ordinator is Mrs Julie White (Assistant Head teacher Student Support)

The Deputy Child Protection Co-ordinator is Miss Dawn Blackler (Yr Leader 9)

Our policy applies to all staff, governors and volunteers working in the school. There five main elements to our policy are to:

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

We recognise that because of the day-to-day contact with children, school staff are well placed to observe the outward signs of abuse. The school 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 adults in the school whom they can approach if they are worried
- include opportunities in the PSHE curriculum for children to develop the skills they need to recognise and stay safe from abuse

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

- ensure we have a designated senior person for child protection who has received appropriate training and support for this role
- ensure we have a nominated governor responsible for child protection and that a yearly report is presented to Governors about Child Protection in the school
- ensure every member of staff (including temporary and supply staff and volunteers) and governing body 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. Training will be provided on this annually
- ensure that parents have an understanding of the responsibility placed on the school and staff for child protection by setting out its obligations in the school prospectus
- notify social services if there is an unexplained absence of more than two days of a pupil 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 pupil 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

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

- the content of the curriculum
- the school ethos which promotes a positive, supportive and secure environment and gives pupils a sense of being valued
- the school behaviour policy which is aimed at supporting vulnerable pupils in the school. The school will ensure that the pupil 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 pupil such as social services, Child and Adult Mental Health Service, education welfare service and educational psychology service
- ensuring that, where a pupil on the child protection register leaves, their information is transferred to the new school immediately and that the child's social worker is informed

The Role of the Governing Body

1. The Governing Body will ensure that all statutory duties with regard to Child Protection are fulfilled, as detailed in Safeguarding Children and Safer Recruitment in Education 2007.
2. The School will provide an annual child protection report for governors, in line with the most recent LA "Guidance on Writing the Annual Report to Governors Concerning Child Protection". A copy of this report must be sent to the manager of Governor Support at Sanford House.
3. The Chair of Governors (or designated governor for child protection, if they are not the chair), in liaison with the designated person, will ensure that the school has a child protection policy and procedures in place, which are known to all members of staff, and up-dated at least annually.
4. The Governing body controls the use of school premises both within and outside of school hours and has a duty to safeguard children and young people using the premises.

Review

This policy will be reviewed on an annual basis, and up-dated where appropriate, however if a weakness is identified in school procedures, the policy will be reviewed and revised immediately.