

Poole Grammar School

Child Protection Policy Statement

Poole Grammar School fully recognises its responsibilities for Child Protection and the safeguarding of the young people in its care.

PGS is committed to the care and welfare of its pupils through the development of a strong underlying ethos accompanied by good practice and sound procedures. Every pupil has a fundamental right to feel safe and protected from any form of abuse from an adult or their peers, be it emotional ill treatment in person or online, non-accidental physical injury, neglect or sexual exploitation.

Our policy applies to all members of the school community. The main elements of our policy are:

- Establishing a safe environment in which young people can learn and develop.
- Ensuring we practice safe recruitment in checking the suitability of staff to work with children.
- Raising awareness of Child Protection issues and equipping young people with the skills needed to keep them safe.
- Highlight awareness of the signs of abuse both in the school and from outside.
- Developing and then implementing procedures for identifying and reporting cases, or suspected cases, of abuse.
- Listening to pupils and supporting those who have been abused.
- Should the need arise, ensure that teachers and others who are innocent are not prejudiced by false allegations.

We recognise that because of the day to day contact with those in their care, school staff are well placed to observe the outward signs of abuse. The school will therefore:

- Prioritise training of its staff and give them the necessary information to recognise the potential issues that can affect young people in respect of safeguarding.
- Establish and maintain an environment where young people feel secure, are encouraged to talk, and are listened to.
- Ensure the students know that there are adults in the school whom they can approach if they are worried about themselves or others.
- Include opportunities in the curriculum and through a range of safeguarding-related events through the course of the year for the students to develop the skills they need to recognise and keep themselves safe from abuse.

We follow the procedures set out by the LCSB and take account of guidance issued in the context of Keeping Children Safe in Education September 2018.

Poole Grammar will:

- Ensure we have a Designated Safeguarding Lead and sufficient deputies who have received appropriate training to oversee safeguarding within the school.
- Ensure we have nominated governors responsible for Child Protection.
- Ensure every member of staff and the governing body knows the names of the designated staff 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 teacher responsible for Child Protection.
- Ensure parents have an understanding of the responsibility of the school and staff for Child Protection by including its obligations in the school prospectus.
- Notify the MASH 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 agencies and co-operate 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 and ensure their confidentiality.
- Follow the procedures where an allegation is made against a member of staff.
- Ensure safe recruitment practices are always followed.
- Report annually to the Governing Body regarding the issues surrounding all aspects of safeguarding pupils in the school.

We recognise that young people who experience abuse or bullying in person or online, or witness violence in the home, may find it difficult to develop a sense of self worth. From this a number of problems may emanate - they may feel helplessness, humiliation and some sense of blame. This may have a severe impact on their welfare and ability to learn in school. The school may be the only stable, secure and predictable element in the lives of children at risk.

The school will endeavour to support the pupil through:

- The content of the curriculum.
- The school ethos that will promote a positive, supportive and secure environment and gives pupils a sense of being valued.
- The school behaviour policy that 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 to which they may have been subjected.
- Liaison with other agencies that support the pupil such as social care.

At all times the school will treat the welfare of each pupil as paramount and aim to provide them with a safe, enriched environment within which they have the opportunity to develop as an individual and learn to the best of their ability.

September 2018 – to be read in conjunction with Child Protection Policies and Procedures booklet.