

## **Child Protection/Safeguarding – Screening Document**

### **Child Protection: Summary**

- Teachers and others in regular contact with children and young people are in a position to get to know those individuals well, to develop trusting relationships, observe changes in behaviour and may be chosen by the young person to share confidence and concerns. Regrettably, there are occasions where child abuse is alleged or suspected. All such situations must be taken seriously.
- It is the policy of a school/establishment to safeguard the welfare of children and all others involved in the school activities by protecting them from physical, sexual and emotional harm.
- It is the responsibility of each adult to ensure that his/her behaviour is appropriate at all times. A Code of Behaviour is included in this document to give positive guidance for all adults. It is essential that all adults follow the Code of Behaviour whether they work with children, young people or adults. Detail of the steps to take if abuse is alleged or suspected are also included in this document, although a more detailed Child Protection Guideline is also available to all staff. It is important to remember that school staff are not investigating officers.
- If there is an allegation or suspicion of abuse then this must be reported immediately to the Child Protection Coordinator or Head of establishment whose responsibility it is to refer to social services/police (who are the investigative agencies). At all times the welfare of the young person is paramount. Swift reporting will enable the investigative agency to give advice and take appropriate action.
- These procedures exist, not to discourage adults from being involved in the life of school/service, but to ensure, as far as possible, that people who may abuse children do not get the opportunity to do so.

### **Complying with School/Establishment's Child Protection Policy:**

- All adults coming into contact with children and young people in this school/service must comply with the Child Protection Policy and Code of Behaviour.
- As one such person, you are required to sign a copy of this document. By signing, you agree to comply with the policy and follow the Code of Behaviour. This form must be read, discussed, signed and handed to the headteacher, head of service or other designated person before you undertake any duties in this establishment.
- In all matters of child protection, the welfare and safety of the child is the paramount consideration.

## **Procedure**

If you suspect that a child/young person is being abused:

- Immediately tell the Child Protection Coordinator or Headteacher
- Record the known facts and give them to the above person.

### **If a child or young person tells you he/she is being abused:**

1. Allow him/her to speak without interruption, accepting what is said.
2. Advise him/her that you will offer support, but that you **MUST** pass information on to the Child Protection Coordinator or Headteacher.
3. Immediately tell the designated Child Protection Coordinator or Head teacher.
4. Record the facts as you know them, including the account given to you by the young person and give a copy to the designated Child Protection Coordinator or Headteacher.

### **If you receive an allegation about any adult or about yourself:**

1. Immediately tell the Child Protection Coordinator or Head teacher
2. Record the facts as you know them and give a copy to the Child Protection Coordinator or Headteacher.

**You must refer. You must not investigate.**

## **Code of behaviour**

**Do** treat everyone with respect

**Do** provide an example you wish others to follow

**Do** plan activities so that they involve more than one person or at least are in sight or

hearing of others.

**Do** respect a young person's right to personal privacy

**Do** provide access for young people and adults to feel comfortable enough to point out

attitudes or behaviours that they do not like, and try to provide a caring atmosphere

**Do** remember that someone else might misinterpret your actions, no matter how well

intentioned

**Do** act as an appropriate role model

**Do Not** permit abusive youth/peer activities (e.g. bullying, ridiculing)

**Do Not** play physical contact games, make inappropriate comments, or have inappropriate verbal banter with young people

**Do Not** jump to conclusions without checking facts

**Do Not** make suggestive remarks/gestures or tell sexist/homophobic/racist 'jokes'

**Do Not** rely on your good name to protect you. It may not be enough.

**Do Not** believe it could not happen to you. It could.

**Please delete as appropriate**

• I have obtained a police clearance certificate which I have shown to the designated member of staff

• I am willing to be checked against police and other records

• I have not incurred any criminal convictions related to, nor have I committed any offences of abuse or causing harm to children and young people, or any other offence which may be relevant to the work I undertake for Aim higher Greater Merseyside

• I am not aware of any other investigations which may have been held, or may currently be in progress, concerning my behaviour towards others.

**I have read and understood this document and agree to adhere to the Child Protection Policy and follow the Code of Behaviour.**

Name: .....

D.O.B: .....

Address.....

Signed:.....

Date:.....

Other names by which I may be / have been known:.....

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