



WINGATE SCHOOL

## CHILD PROTECTION POLICY

### PURPOSE

Wingate School believes that every child has the right to feel secure and safe from abuse and harm. We are committed to protecting all the children in our care from harm during their time at School.

### Child Abuse

Child abuse can manifest itself in a variety of different ways and across all cultures, areas and socio-economic groups. All members of staff should be vigilant at identifying signs and evidence of physical, sexual, emotional abuse or neglect. Any concerns of any abuse should be raised immediately with a member of the senior staff:

- Head of Infants – Miss L Pearson
- Head of Juniors – Mrs L Estevez
- Head of KS3 – Mrs Hopewell
- Head of KS4 - Mrs C Tolfrey
- Head of Sixth Form – Mrs C Crone
- **Designated Senior Person - Mr C Macrae, Head of Wingate School**

### Definitions of Child Abuse

**Physical abuse:** causing physical harm to a child by any means

**Sexual abuse:** involves forcing or enticing a child or young person to take part in sexual activities, whether or not the child is aware of what is happening. Activities may or may not involve physical contact. They may include involving children in looking at, or in the production of, pornographic material, or encouraging children to behave in sexually inappropriate ways.

**Emotional abuse:** is the emotional ill-treatment of a child causing severe and persistent adverse effects on the child's emotional development. This may be by making them feel they are worthless or unloved, inadequate, undervalued or frequently made to feel frightened.

**Neglect:** is the persistent failure to meet a child's basic physical and/or psychological needs, likely to result in serious impairment of the child's health or development. Forms of neglect are failing to provide adequate food, shelter and clothing.

### Signs to Monitor

All staff and volunteers should raise their concerns with a member of the senior staff if:

A child regularly has unexplained injuries, bruising or marks not typical of those normally associated with children's injuries

- A child gives confused or conflicting explanations about how injuries were sustained
- A child shies away from touch, flinches for no apparent reason or seems afraid to go home
- There has been a visual deterioration in the child's general well-being or appearance
- A child exhibits significant changes in behaviour, performance or attitude
- A child demonstrates sexual behaviour which is inappropriate to the age of the child
- A child makes comments which give cause for concern
- A child discloses an incident of abuse of any kind

## GUIDELINES

### If a Child Discloses Abuse:

- Listen carefully, do not make judgments or discuss your own opinion about what the child is telling you
- Try to ask open questions that enable the child to describe the incident using their own vocabulary and terminology
- Ensure the child feels secure, safe and comfortable in the room and with the supervising adult
- Staff members **must not** make promises of confidentiality to the child
- As soon as possible, complete an Incident Form or make detailed notes of time and place, note details of what was said and how it was said. Give it to the member of the senior staff you approach

### For Staff following a Disclosure or Suspected Abuse from a student:

- Inform any member of the senior staff who will inform Mr Macrae or for serious concerns, speak directly to Mr Macrae
- Discuss any concerns however small or insignificant, with a member of the senior staff or for serious concerns, directly with Mr Macrae
- Staff members must never delay in referring an issue



Mr Colin Macrae  
Head of Wingate School

Date of review September 2019