

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. This Policy also now includes the recent changes to the Law in the UK, Spain and DfE Guidelines on Child Protection (see end for links to references).

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. All staff undergo regular CPD training on Safeguarding. Any concerns of any abuse should be raised immediately with a member of the senior staff:

- Head of Foundation – Miss L Pearson
- Head of Primary – Mrs L Estevez
- Deputy Head of Seniors – Mr D Burgess
- Head of Senior School – Mrs C Tolfrey
- **Designated Safeguarding Lead - Mr M Howells, Head of Wingate School**
- Social Services Liaison - Srta E Ramirez

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. Sexual exploitation is a form of sexual abuse.

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. There is also a form of neglect resulting from wealth and lack of attention when staff / guardians care for children in the absence of parents.

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 or:

- 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

Other forms of abuse may manifest themselves if students are involved in:

Serious Violence, Gang Involvement and the Criminal Exploitation of Vulnerable Children:

Child Criminal Exploitation is uncommon in Wingate School but it can occur where an individual or group takes advantage of an imbalance of power to coerce, control, manipulate or deceive a child or young person under the age of 18. The victim may have been criminally exploited even if the activity appears consensual. Child Criminal Exploitation does not always involve physical contact; it can also occur through the use of technology.

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

- A student persistently goes missing from school or home
- An unexplained acquisition of money, clothes or mobile phones
- An excessive receipt of texts / phone calls and/or having multiple handsets
- They have relationships with controlling / older individuals or groups
- Students reported as leaving home without explanation
- A suspicion of physical assault or the student has unexplained injuries
- Parental concerns
- A student is found carrying weapons
- A sudden significant decline in school results and performance
- A report of gang association or is isolated from peers or social networks
- A student self-harms or displays significant changes in emotional well-being

Child on child Sexual Harassment:

In line with the updated UK DfE KCSIE 2024, members of staff at Wingate school will complete CPD training on child sexual harassment. We have also implemented the "Confidential Student Harassment and Bullying Register". All staff should note that even if there are no cases reported, it does not mean it is not happening within our school.

Defining child Sexual Harassment and why we need a 'Whole School Approach':

- Sexual violence and sexual harassment can occur between two children of any age and sex. It can also occur through a group of children sexually assaulting or sexually harassing a single child or group of children
- Children who are victims of sexual violence and sexual harassment will likely find the experience stressful and distressing. This will, in all likelihood, adversely affect their educational attainment
- Sexual harassment can occur online and offline (both physically and verbally) and are never acceptable. It is important that all victims are taken seriously and offered appropriate support
- Reports of sexual violence and sexual harassment are extremely complex to manage. It is essential that victims are protected, offered appropriate support and every effort is made to ensure their education is not disrupted
- Whilst any report of sexual violence or sexual harassment should be taken seriously, staff should be aware it is more likely that girls will be the victims of sexual violence and sexual harassment and more likely it will be perpetrated by boys

What Teachers should be looking for:

- Teachers must make it clear that sexual violence and sexual harassment are not acceptable, will never be tolerated and is not an inevitable part of growing up
- Wingate School will not tolerate or dismiss sexual violence or sexual harassment as "banter", "part of growing up", "just having a laugh" or "boys being boys"
- Wingate School will challenge behaviour (potentially criminal in nature), such as grabbing bottoms, breasts and genitalia and flicking bras and lifting up skirts. Dismissing or tolerating such behaviours risks normalising them
- Teachers and students must understand that all of the above can be driven by wider societal factors beyond the school and college, such as everyday sexist stereotypes and everyday sexist language. This is why a whole school approach (especially preventative education through PSHE) is important
- Teachers should recognise that SEND students are more likely to be victimised and less likely to report incidents to teachers

Sexual harassment can include:

- sexual comments, such as: telling sexual stories, making lewd comments, making sexual remarks about clothes and appearance and calling someone sexualised names
- sexual "jokes" or taunting
- physical behaviour, such as: deliberately brushing against someone, interfering with someone's clothes, and displaying pictures, photos, or drawings of a sexual nature

Online sexual harassment - this may be standalone, or part of a wider pattern of sexual harassment and/or sexual violence to include:

- non-consensual sharing of sexual images and videos
- sexualised online bullying
- unwanted sexual comments and messages, including, on social media
- sexual exploitation; coercion and threats

Upskirting:

Upskirting is a highly intrusive practice, which typically involves someone taking a picture under another person's clothing without their knowledge, with the intention of viewing their genitals or buttocks (with or without underwear). Upskirting is a distressing and humiliating violation of privacy for victims. Upskirting is now a criminal offence in the UK. Though mobile phones are banned in Wingate School, we want victims to know and be confident that reports of this behaviour will be taken seriously and perpetrators severely punished. Please refer to the Behaviour & Discipline Policy.

Wingate staff undergo regular CPD on other safeguarding issues such as: radicalisation; grooming; and sexual exploitation. All Wingate staff have access to the online CPD provider 'Optimus' as well as school provided CPD on specific forms of child abuse.

Guidelines

If a Child Discloses Abuse:

- Listen carefully, do not make judgments or discuss your own opinion about what the child is telling you
- Teachers should always reassure victims of abuse and that they are being taken seriously but the allegations will need to be shared with the Safeguarding Team.
- 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 Howells or for serious concerns, speak directly to Mr Howells
- Discuss any concerns however small or insignificant, with a member of the senior staff or for serious concerns, directly with Mr Howells
- Staff members must never delay in referring an issue

Unsubstantiated, Unfounded, False or Malicious Reports:

Allegations which are found to fall into any of these categories should still raise concerns over the wellbeing of the accuser, the DSL should consider if support is required.

Information Sharing:

Sharing information is an intrinsic part of all lead personnel and the DSL when working with children and young people. The decisions about how much information to share, with whom and when, can have a profound impact on individuals' lives. Information sharing helps to ensure that an individual receives the right services at the right time and prevents a need from becoming more acute and difficult to meet.

The GDPR and Data Protection Act 2018 do not prevent, or limit, the sharing of information for the purposes of keeping children and young people safe.

The following guidelines apply:

- All lead personnel and the DSL should be confident of the processing conditions, which allow them to store, and share the information that they need to carry out their safeguarding role
- Information which is relevant to safeguarding will often be data which is considered 'special category personal data' meaning it is sensitive and personal and should be treated as such
- Where lead personnel and the DSL need to share special category personal data, they should be aware that the Data Protection Act 2018 includes 'safeguarding of children and individuals at risk' as a condition that allows practitioners to share information without consent
- Information can be shared legally without consent, if lead personnel or the DSL are unable to, cannot be reasonably expected to gain consent from the individual, or if to gain consent could place a child at further risk
- Relevant personal information can be shared lawfully if it is to keep a child or individual at risk safe from neglect or physical, emotional or mental harm, or if it is protecting their physical, mental, or emotional well-being

Wingate GDPR Policies can be found on the school website under the Admissions/Enquiries Section or directly by request in English or Spanish from the school Office.

Outside Support Agencies:

There is one Social Services Department in each County of the Island, usually based in the Town Hall or in a State Building. The Social Workers will work only with people allocated and registered in that County. If the DSL decides that a student should be referred to a specific Social Services Department, after completing a 'Wingate School, Student of Concern Form', E. Ramirez will contact and liaise with them directly.

If any more specific support is deemed necessary by the Social Worker, they will be referred to the right Psychologist/Therapist/ Mental Unit Hospitals etc. The designated Social Worker will also follow-up on families in risk of social exclusion, drugs, with problematic children.

Advice and support for the school can also be sought from the Consejería de Educación, in Santa Cruz, again liaised by E Ramirez.

Teaching of Safeguarding to Students:

Many areas of this Policy and complementary safeguarding policies are taught during PSHE and PDP lessons across Wingate School. For example "Gooseberry Planet" has been introduced in September 2019 to teach students from Year 1 to Year 10 about e-safety. If parents wish access to the PSHE Scheme of Work please contact the School Office. Also refer to the Student Wellbeing Policy.

Excerpts and adaptations from the following documents were used in the production of this Policy:

Keeping children safe in education (KCSIE) Statutory guidance for schools and colleges. September 2024.

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/1021914/KCSIE_2021_September_guidance.pdf

UK Government, Information sharing Advice for practitioners providing safeguarding services to children, young people, parents and carers. July 2018

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/721581/Information_sharing_advice_practitioners_safeguarding_services.pdf

Upskirting: know your rights. Published February 2019

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/upskirting-know-your-rights>

From the UK Home Office, Criminal Exploitation of children and vulnerable adults. September 2018

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/741194/HOCountyLinesGuidanceSept2018.pdf

Ley 26/2018, de 21 de diciembre, de derechos y garantías de la infancia y la adolescencia. Comunitat Valenciana «DOGV» núm. 8450, de 24 de diciembre de 2018 «BOE» núm. 39, de 14 de febrero de 2019 Referencia: BOE-A-2019-1986 (Translation: *Law 26/2018, of December 21, on rights and guarantees of the childhood and adolescence, Valencian Community, «DOGV» no. 8450, of December 24, 2018 «BOE» no. 39, from February 14, 2019, Reference: BOE-A-2019-1986*)

<https://www.boe.es/buscar/pdf/2019/BOE-A-2019-1986-consolidado.pdf>

El Boletín Oficial del Estado publicó el 5 junio de 2021 la Ley Orgánica 8/2021, de 4 de junio, de protección integral a la infancia y la adolescencia frente a la violencia.

Mr M. Howells
Head of Wingate School

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