



Child Protection Policy Statement

The *Governors* and staff at the school take seriously the responsibility to promote the welfare and safeguard all young people entrusted to our care.

1. Child protection will have the highest priority within the school and we will endeavour to protect students from physical, sexual or emotional abuse and ensure that they are not neglected. In all cases the student's welfare will be the paramount consideration.
2. Child protection is established to ensure that the school organisation, its activities, staffing and procedures are aimed at providing an environment in which students feel safe, secure, valued and respected, in which their individual needs are met and where they are confident to talk openly and are sure of being listened to.
3. There are a number of associated policies, procedures and guidance that set out how we work with students to promote and safeguard their welfare.
4. A range of opportunities and levels of support will be provided to enable each student to express any fears, concerns or worries or make a disclosure and that these will be taken seriously and the child protection procedures sensitively instigated. The wishes and feelings of the student will be ascertained in an appropriate way with regard to their age, understanding and communication needs.
5. Staff will actively work to develop relationships with parents that will promote working in partnership and take into account their views. This will also allow parents to build an understanding of the school's responsibility to ensure the welfare of students, including the need for referral to other agencies in some situations.

6. There will be opportunities through the curriculum and the life-skills programme for students to increase self-awareness, self-esteem, assertiveness and decision making skills so that they are able to develop strategies to ensure their own protection and understand the importance of protecting others.
7. Training will be available to all staff so they are able to recognise the signs and symptoms of abuse and are aware of the school's procedures to report any concerns or disclosures.
8. The school will maintain confidential files on individual students known to be, or suspected of being, in need of protection.
9. The school will show a commitment to inter-agency co-operation when assessing children in need or instigating child protection procedures.
10. All adults in the school have a role to play in promoting the welfare and protecting children from harm.