

## **Kings High School Child Protection Statement**

### Background

Kings High School fully recognises its responsibilities for child protection. This statement provides an overview of the school's position and should be read in conjunction with the school's Safeguarding Policy for full details.

The Designated Child Protection person is Carol Harrison

The Designated Governor is Janice Hearne

There are five main elements to our practice within school:

- Ensuring we practice safe recruitment in checking the suitability of staff and volunteers to work with children.
- Raising awareness of safeguarding and child protection issues and equipping children with the skills needed to keep them safe.
- Developing and then implementing procedures for identifying and reporting cases, or suspected cases, of harm.
- Supporting students who have been subject to, or are at risk of, significant harm in accordance with his/her agreed child protection plan.
- Establishing a safe environment in which children can learn and develop.

We recognise that because of the day to day contact with children, school staff are well placed to observe the outward signs of harm.

### School Responsibility and Actions

Our School will therefore:

- Establish and maintain an environment where children feel secure, are encouraged to talk, and are listened to.
- Ensure children know that there are adults in the school whom they can approach if they are worried.
- Include opportunities in the PSHEE curriculum for children to develop the skills they need to recognise and stay safe from harm.

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### Procedures

We will follow the procedures set out by Bournemouth and Poole Safeguarding Children Board and take account of guidance issued by the Department for Children, Schools and Families to:

- Ensure we have a designated senior person for safeguarding and child protection who has received appropriate training and support for this role.
- Ensure we have a nominated governor responsible for child protection.
- Ensure every member of staff (including temporary and supply staff and volunteers) and governing body knows the name of the designated senior person 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 senior person responsible for child protection.
- Ensure that parents have an understanding of the responsibility placed on the school and staff for safeguarding by setting out its obligations in the school prospectus.
- Notify social services if there is an unexplained absence of more than two days of a student who is on the child protection register.
- Develop effective links with relevant agencies and co-operate as required with their enquiries regarding safeguarding 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; separate from the main student file, and in locked locations.
- Develop and then follow procedures, as guided by the Bournemouth and Poole Local Area Designated Officer, where an allegation is made against a member of staff or volunteer.
- Ensure safe recruitment practices are always followed.
- We recognise that children who have been harmed or witness violence may find it difficult to develop a sense of self worth. They may feel helplessness, humiliation and some sense of blame. Our School may be the only stable, secure and predictable element in the lives of children at risk. When at School their behaviour may be challenging and defiant or they may be withdrawn.

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Support for the child

Our School will endeavour to support the child through:

- The content of the curriculum.
- Our School ethos which promotes a positive, supportive and secure environment and gives students a sense of being valued.
- Our School Behaviour Policy which is aimed at supporting vulnerable students in our School. Our School will ensure that the student knows that some behaviour is unacceptable but they are valued and not responsible for any harm that has been done to them.
- Liaison with other agencies that support the student such as Social Services, Child and Adult Mental Health Service, Education Welfare Service and Educational Psychology Service.
- Ensuring that, where a child is subject to a child protection plan leaves, their information is transferred to their new school immediately and that the child's social worker is informed.

This statement was endorsed by Governors at the Full Governing Body meeting on 1 February 2010.

The statement will be reviewed annually.