

E-ACT POLICY

PARKWOOD ACADEMY

SAFEGUARDING CHILDREN

Date agreed by Governors	
Date of review	
Responsible officer	Principal / Business Director

Numbering on this policy seems incorrect under 2.2.2 :-

Think - a) The Governing Body etc – should be- i
Then 1st sentence over page – “has a child protection” etc should be a)

What is Safeguarding?

In recent years there has been increasing concern about the safety and welfare of both children and young adults.

Safeguarding is defined by the Children Act 1989 and Joint Chief Inspectors Report on Arrangements to Safeguard Children (2002)

Who Are We Safeguarding?

The Children Act 1989 states the legal definition of a child is “a person under the age of 18”. “Young Person” is not a legal term, for the purposes of the policy and procedures a young person is someone who might not perceive themselves as a child, but who is still in the age range of the legal definition, and therefore fall within the term “child”.

1 Aims and Objectives

1.1

This policy has been developed to ensure that the Governing Body of Parkwood Academy complies with statutory duty under Section 175 of the Education Act 2002 to make arrangements to safeguard and promote the welfare of children. Section 175 became law on 1st June 2004.

1.2

In drawing up this policy, Parkwood Academy has followed the guidance published in the Department for Education & Skills (DCSF) document Safeguarding Children in Education.

1.3

Safeguarding Children and Safer Recruitment in Education which came into force in January 2007 has been considered, as have the child protection procedures published by Sheffield Local Safeguarding Children Board in November 2007.

2 Scope

2.1

All staff are expected to embrace the policy and comply with associated procedures. (Refer to section 4 Related Documents).

2.2.1

Statutory responsibilities of governing bodies for safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children apply only to learners under the age of 18 years.

2.2.2

These responsibilities are set out below:

The Governing Body should ensure the institution:

Has a child protection policy and procedures in place that are in keeping with locally agreed inter-agency procedures and the policy is made available to students/parents on request;

Operates safe recruitment procedures and makes sure that all appropriate checks are carried out on staff and volunteers who will work with children, including Criminal Records Bureau and List 99 checks. This includes following the guidance on Recruitment and Vetting Checks, as detailed in the January 2007 Safeguarding Children and Safer Recruitment in Education publication;

Has procedures for dealing with allegations of abuse against members of staff and volunteers that comply with locally agreed procedures and DCFS guidance as published in the January 2007 Safeguarding Children and Safer Recruitment in Education.

The Governing Body should ensure:

A senior member of staff is designated to take lead responsibility for dealing with child protection issues, providing advice and support to other staff, liaising with the LEA and working with other agencies. This designated person must have the status and authority within the institution's management structure to carry out the duties of the post, including committing resources to child protection matters and, where appropriate, directing other staff.

NB: Dealing with individual cases may be a responsibility of the student welfare or student support arrangements in institutions, but it is important that a senior member of staff takes responsibility for this area of work;

where an institution provides education and / or training for pupils under 16 years of age who are on the role of secondary Academies, the designated person liaises with the Academies concerned and ensures that appropriate arrangements are in place to safeguard the children;

in addition to basic child protection training, the designated person undertakes training in inter-agency working that is provided by or to standards agreed by and refresher training at two yearly intervals to keep his/her knowledge and skills up-to-date.

The Principal should ensure that:

- The policies and procedures adopted by the Governing Body are fully implemented and followed by staff;

- All staff (including the Principal) who work with children undertake training to equip them to carry out their responsibilities for child protection effectively and are kept up-to-date by refresher training at three yearly intervals;
- Temporary staff and volunteers who work with children are made aware of the institutions' arrangements for child protection and their responsibilities;
- Sufficient time and resources are allocated to enable the designated person to fulfil their responsibilities, including attending any inter-agency meetings;
- All staff and volunteers feel able to raise concerns about poor or unsafe practice in accordance with an agreed whistle blowing policy and procedure.
- The Governing Body remedies any deficiencies or weaknesses in regard to child protection arrangements that are brought to its attention without delay.
- The Governing Body undertakes an annual review of its policies and procedures and how the above duties have been discharged.

3 Policy

3.1

Policy Statement

3.1.1

Parkwood Academy has a duty to provide a positive and secure learning environment in which students can fulfill their potential.

3.1.2

The Governing Body of Parkwood Academy will ensure that arrangements are in place to take all reasonable measures to ensure that risks of harm to young people are minimised and procedures are in place to take all appropriate actions to address concerns about the welfare of young people, working to agreed local policies.

3.1.3

Parkwood Academy seeks to fulfill these requirements by providing a safe environment for students and by responding to, or identifying, young people who may be suffering significant harm and taking appropriate actions.

3.2 Principles Underpinning the Policy

3.2.1 The following principles underpin the policy:

- The welfare of the young person is paramount;
- Delay in taking action will often be prejudicial to the young person's welfare;

- The duty of confidentiality is secondary to the duty to protect the young person from abuse;
- Primary responsibility and investigation for child protection is the duty of Social Services and the Police. The role of Parkwood Academy is to identify, refer and support the young person and the agencies as appropriate;
- Accurate recording is essential. Records must be dated, signed and fully reflect the situation at the time;
- All staff have a responsibility to follow the policy and procedures throughout the process.

3.3 The Strategy for Safeguarding and Protecting Children

3.3.1

Parkwood Academy will develop and implement procedures that:

- prevent unsuitable people working with young people;
- promote safe practice and challenge poor and unsafe practice;
- identify instances where there are grounds for concern about a young person's welfare and initiate actions to keep them safe;
- contribute to effective partnership working with all those involved in providing services for young people;
- Ensure that staff receives appropriate training and support.

3.4

Monitoring and Reporting

Parkwood Academy has in place an organizational structure for safeguarding children. Parkwood Academy takes the view that all staff and students are required to take a shared responsibility for the protection and safety of any young person. Staff must be aware of and abide by the Academy's Codes of Good Practice

3.4.1

Compliance with procedures will be monitored through the usual management arrangements.

3.4.2

An annual report will be produced for the Board of Governors to include the following:

- Introduction: Purpose – Responsibilities Under S. 175 Education Act 2002 – any new legislative change / guidance that is relevant.
- Policy: Outcomes of the policy review (annually). Satisfactory procedures are in place for allegations against staff / whistle blowing / anti-bullying / safe recruitment and vetting.
- Designated senior member of staff: Who? Has she / he received appropriate training? What resources and time is allocated to ensure the role is fulfilled adequately?
- Links with other agencies: Academies / Social Services, etc.

- Training: Have all relevant staff received appropriate training within the prescribed time frames. How many?
- CP cases: Number of cases (not detailed or identifying individuals). Were they dealt with appropriately? Are there any high risk groups? Any changes in practice / training needs / procedure identified as a result. If so, what?
- Allegations against staff: As above, including outcomes.
- Summary view of Parkwood Academy's response to Safeguarding Children requirements: Any recommendations that the Governing Body must endorse.

3.5 Review

3.5.1

This policy and the associated procedures will be reviewed on an annual basis and be amended in accordance with legislative changes, changes to locally agreed inter-agency procedures and best practice in the further education sector.

4 Related Documents

- Child Protection: Dealing with allegations or suspicions of child abuse
- Anti Bullying Policy
- Selection, recruitment and appointment of staff
- Dealing with allegations of abuse against staff and volunteers

