



Information for parents regarding the Safeguarding of pupils at Smith's Wood Sports College.

The role of the college in Safeguarding your child: Child Protection Statement

The Governors and staff of Smith's Wood Sports College take seriously our responsibility to promote the welfare and safeguarding of all the children and young people entrusted to our care. The (Designated Members of Staff for Child Protection are (**Mrs Craig, Mrs Brookes and Mrs O'Dowd**) who have overall responsibility for child protection practice in the college.

The college is committed to:

- Maintaining children's social and emotional welfare.
- Providing an environment in which children and young people feel safe, secure, valued and respected; confident to talk openly and sure of being listened to.
- Providing procedures for checking on staff before they are allowed to work with children, via the Criminal Records Bureau.
- Providing suitable support and guidance so that students have a range of appropriate adults who they feel confident to approach.
- Providing a child protection policy which includes procedures to be followed if a member of staff is accused of harming a child.
- Using the curriculum to provide opportunities for increasing self awareness, self esteem, assertiveness and decision making so that students have a range of contacts and strategies to ensure their own safeguarding and understand the importance of safeguarding others.
- Working with parents and carers to build an understanding of the college's responsibility to ensure the welfare of all children including the need for referral to other agencies in some situations.
- Ensuring all staff are able to recognise the signs and symptoms of abuse and are aware of the college's procedures and lines of communication.
- Monitoring the children and young people who have been identified as "vulnerable" including the need for protection; keeping confidential records which are stored securely and shared appropriately with other professionals.
- Developing effective and supportive liaison with other agencies, for example; Children's Social Work Services, Child and Adolescent Mental Health Service, College Nurse, Youth Inclusion Support Service and Youth Offending Team.

The role of the college within this procedure is to contribute to the identification, referral and assessment of children in need including children who may have suffered, be suffering or who are at risk of suffering significant harm. The college also has a role in the provision of services to Children in Need and their families.

The college is NOT responsible, in situations where there are child protection concerns, for necessary investigations; our responsibility is to recognise need and refer to the appropriate agencies.

What is Child Abuse?

Abuse can happen to a child at any age, from birth up to 18 years of age and can happen in any family setting; it can happen to black children and white children; it can happen to disabled and non-disabled children. Abuse can happen because of the way adults or other children and young people behave towards a child; it can also result from adults failing to provide proper care for the children they look after. One child may suffer different kinds of abuse at the same time, the main categories of abuse to be aware of are:

Raising Achievement in Smith's Wood Education

- **Physical Abuse**

- Neglect
- Sexual Abuse
- Emotional Abuse

Further information on the types of child abuse can be found on our safeguarding notice board located within the college reception, or you can speak to a Designated Member of Staff.

What to do if you are concerned about the welfare of a child

In college you can contact the following Designated Members of Staff for Child Protection:

- Managing Designated Member of Staff for Child Protection who is Mrs Katy Craig.
- **Operational Designated Member of Staff Mrs Phillipa Brookes (who is responsible for daily child protection and safeguarding concerns and is the first port of call)**
- Assistant Designated Member of Staff who is Mrs Jane O'Dowd.

Out of college hours (or if you feel that you would not like to approach the DMS) then you can contact Children's Social Work Services **0121 788 4375** in office hours and out of hours the **Emergency Duty Team can be contacted on 0121 605 6060 or you can also contact the Police by telephoning: 0845 1135000. If you are concerned that a child is at immediate risk you should call 999.**

You can also contact the NSPCC who can provide advice and support to adults who are concerned about the safety or welfare of a child.

You can call on **0808 800 5000** or visit www.nspcc.org.uk

The Child and Family Support Team

We have four Child and Family Support Workers, who are based in the college and have responsibility for delivering pastoral support and guidance to pupils and their families. An open door policy operates, developing a support network within the college and working together with outside agencies to enable young people to reach the five outcomes provided in the Every Child Matters document 2004 (Be Healthy, Stay Safe, Enjoy and Achieve, Make a Positive Contribution and Achieve Economic Well-being), there is also a sixth outcome that Solihull Council has adopted which is Access Services.

The Child and Family support Workers provide support using counselling skills and offer guidance in accessing and receiving additional support. Each house has a Child and Family Worker assigned to it and they are as follows:

- Ash House – Gail Carroll
- Bay House – Lisa Hughes
- Yew House – Donna Potter
- Elm House – Karen Buttery

College Policies and Statements:

Copies of the College policies on Child Protection and Safeguarding, Anti-Bullying, E Safety, Substance Abuse, Handling a pupil (in terms of behaviour management), Confidentiality and Combined Equality are available on request.