

**Information for parents and carers regarding the Safeguarding of pupils at**

**Smith’s Wood Academy**

The Governors and staff of Smith’s Wood Academy take seriously our responsibility to promote the welfare and safeguarding of all the children and young people entrusted to our care. The Designated Safeguarding Leads for Child Protection are Miss Ruth Kitchen, Mrs Phillipa Brookes and Deputy Safeguarding Lead Mrs Gail Carroll.

The Academy is committed to:

• Maintaining young people’s social and emotional welfare.

• Providing an environment in which 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

Vetting and Barring Service.

• Providing suitable support and guidance so that students have a range of appropriate adults who

they feel confident to approach.

• Providing a Safeguarding and 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 Academy’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 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

Care Services, Child and Adolescent Mental Health Service (SOLAR), Academy Nurse, Engage (Early Help) and Youth Offending Team.

The role of the Academy 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 Academy also has a role in the provision of services to Children in Need and their families.

The Academy 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, Asian or 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:

* Physical Abuse
* Sexual Abuse
* Emotional Abuse
* Neglect

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

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

**You can contact the following Designated Leads for Staff for Child Protection:**

**• Managing Designated Member of Staff for Child Protection who is Miss Ruth Kitchen.**

• **Operational Designated Member of Staff Mrs Phillipa Brookes (who is responsible for**

**Child protection and Safeguarding concerns and is first point of contact)**

**Mrs Gail Carroll (Child and Family Support Worker) is Deputy Safeguarding Lead.**

**Tel 0121 788 4100 Extension 4712**

Out of Academy hours (or if you feel that you would not like to approach the DSL) then you can contact Solihull MASH (Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub) **0121 788 4333** in office hours and out of hours the Emergency Duty Team can be contacted on **0121 605 6060** [**www.solihull.gov.uk/staysafe**](http://www.solihull.gov.uk/staysafe)or you can also contact the Police by telephoning:101.

If you are concerned that a child is at immediate risk you should call **999**.

**Birmingham MASH - 0121 303 1888 Out of hours, Emergency Duty Team - 0121 675 4806**

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** [**https://www.nspcc.org.uk/**](https://www.nspcc.org.uk/)

**Early Help offered by The Academy**

The Academy adopts an Early Help intervention strategy for all students and their families. Prevention rather than intervention is encouraged across all aspects of learning, engagement and pastoral support for pupils.

Young people and families who do require dedicated Early Help support can be referred to the Academy Child and Family Support Worker Mrs Gail Carroll. Please speak to your child’s Head of House about this support for more information about the referral process.

Further sources of information:

**Child Sexual Exploitation**

See me, hear me!

<https://www.seeme-hearme.org.uk/>

PACE – Parents against Child Sexual Exploitation

<https://paceuk.info/>

**Gangs and Youth Violence**

<http://www.solgrid.org.uk/wellbeing/safeguarding-through-the-curriculum/gangs-and-youth-violence/>

<http://westmidlands.procedures.org.uk/pkpzs/regional-safeguarding-guidance/children-affected-by-gang-activity-and-youth-violence>

<https://www.fearless.org/en/campaigns/county-lines>

**Domestic Abuse and Violence**

Helpline 0808 800 0028

Drop-in 07896 328 333

Birmingham and Solihull Women’s Aid

<http://bswaid.org/?gclid=EAIaIQobChMIrOjfxsjG2gIVBqsYCh06AgjOEAAYASAAEgJytPD_BwE>

More Information available:

<http://www.solihulllscb.co.uk/>

<http://www.solihulllscb.co.uk/parents-carers.php>

<http://www.lscbbirmingham.org.uk/index.php/parents-a-carers>

<http://www.barnardos.org.uk/?gclid=EAIaIQobChMIjIXxl8nG2gIVTS4YCh2IDQ8JEAAYASACEgI3IPD_BwE>

<https://www.solihullcommunityhousing.org.uk/>

**Emotional and Mental Health Support for Young People –**

<https://www.bsmhft.nhs.uk/our-services/solar-youth-services/>

<https://youngminds.org.uk/?gclid=EAIaIQobChMIh_-lyrTQ2gIVyr3tCh3y_A5gEAAYASAAEgLdsfD_BwE>

<https://www.selfharm.co.uk/>

<https://www.childline.org.uk/info-advice/your-feelings/self-harm/>

**Early Help Service – Solihull and Birmingham**

<http://socialsolihull.org.uk/earlyhelp/>

<http://www.lscbbirmingham.org.uk/index.php/parents-a-carers>

http://www.malachi.org.uk/in-the-community/think-family

**Young Carers**

<https://solihull.mylifeportal.co.uk/youngcarers/>

**E-Safety**

<https://www.ceop.police.uk/safety-centre/>

<https://www.thinkuknow.co.uk/>

<https://www.saferinternet.org.uk/advice-centre/parents-and-carers>

<http://www.childnet.com/parents-and-carers>

**Drug and Alcohol Abuse**

<http://aquarius.org.uk/contact/solihull/>

<http://www.solihull.gov.uk/Resident/socialservicesandhealth/childrenfamilies/drugsalcohol>

<http://aquarius.org.uk/birmingham/>