

St. John's Child Protection and Safeguarding Policy

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All staff have a responsibility to ensure they are informed, trained, and understand their duty to operate within this policy and procedure.

All staff have a shared responsibility to take appropriate steps to protect children at risk.

Trustees, Governors, the Executive Leadership Team, and the Senior Leadership Team have responsibility for ensuring effective governance and safe services and will achieve this through:

- Effective, comprehensive Policies and Procedures.
- Implementation of Safer Recruitment principles and requirements.
- Effective monitoring of safeguarding.
- The provision of effective and comprehensive training.

5. The Policy Statement

This policy and associated procedure apply to all staff of .

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Appendix 2: Specific safeguarding issues

Children missing from education or home/care

A child going missing from education is a potential indicator of abuse or neglect, and such children are at risk of being victims of harm, exploitation, or radicalisation.

There are many circumstances where a child may become missing from education, but some children are particularly at risk. These include children who:

- Are at risk of harm or neglect.
- Come from Gypsy, Roma, or Traveller families.
- Come from the families of service personnel.
- Go missing or run away from home or care.
- Are supervised by the youth justice system.
- Cease to attend a college.
- Come from new migrant families.

We will follow our procedures for unauthorised absence and for dealing with children who go missing from education, particularly on repeat occasions, to help identify the risk of abuse and neglect, including sexual exploitation, and to help prevent the risks of going missing in future. This includes informing the home and host Local Authority if a child leaves the college without a new college being named(e)JTETQD.00000884ht the ris

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Children or young people who are being sexually exploited may not understand that they are being abused. They often trust their abuser and may be tricked into believing they are in a loving, consensual relationship.

If a member of staff suspects CSE, they will discuss this with the DSL and report their concern on the digital system. The DSL will follow the local safeguarding procedures, including a referral to the home and host Local A

criteria for action have been met. Indicators of sexual exploitation can include a child:

- Appearing with unexplained gifts or new possessions.
- Associating with other young people involved in exploitation.
- Having older boyfriends or girlfriends.
- Suffering from sexually transmitted infections or becoming pregnant.
- Displaying inappropriate sexualised behaviour.
- Suffering from changes in emotional wellbeing.
- Misusing drugs and/or alcohol.
- Going missing for periods of time, or regularly coming home late.
- Regularly missing college or education, or not taking part in education.

So-called Honour based abuse, including Female Genital Mutilation (FGM)

The DSL will make sure that staff have access to appropriate training to equip them to be alert to children affected by or at risk of FGM or other forms of so-called honour-based abuse.

The Child Safeguarding Procedure document outlines the steps to be followed if a staff member discovers that an act of FGM appears to have been carried out or suspects that a learner is at risk of FGM. Indicators that FGM has already occurred include:

- A learner confiding in a professional that FGM has taken place.
- A mother/family member disclosing that FGM has been carried out.
- Having difficulty walking, sitting, or standing, or looking uncomfortable.
- Finding it hard to sit still for long periods of time (where this was not a problem previously).
- Spending longer than normal in the bathroom or toilet due to difficulties urinating.
- Having frequent urinary, menstrual or stomach problems.
- Avoiding physical exercise or missing Physical Education (PE).
- Being repeatedly absent from college or absent for a prolonged period.
- Demonstrating increased emotional and psychological needs for example, withdrawal or depression, or significant change in behaviour.
- Being reluctant to undergo any medical examinations.
- Asking for help, but not being explicit about the problem.
- Talking about pain or discomfort between her legs.

Potential signs that a learner may be at risk of FGM include:

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- A parent or family member expressing concern that FGM may be carried out.
- A family not engaging with professionals (health, education or other) or already being known to social care in relation to other forms of so-called honour-based abuse.
- Having a mother, older sibling or cousin who has undergone FGM.
- Having limited level of integration within UK society.

Talking about a long holiday to her country of origin or another country where the practice is prevalent, or parents stating that they or a relative will take the girl out of the country for a prolonged period.

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Low level concerns must always be discussed with the DSL and a decision must be made as to the appropriate course of action to be taken. This might include discussion with the home and host Local Authority if there is any doubt about the status of the concern.

Child on child abuse (previously known as bullying or peer abuse)

All concerns regarding child-on-child abuse will be fully investigated with active support and protection plans being agreed for all children involved.

Checking the identity and suitability of visitors

All visitors will be required to verify their identity to the satisfaction of staff.

If the visitor is unknown to the setting, we will check their credentials and reason for visiting before allowing them to enter the setting. Visitors should be ready to produce identification. Visitors are

All visitors to our settings, including visiting speakers, will be accompanied by a member of staff at all times. We will not invite into the college any speaker who is known to disseminate extremist views and will carry out appropriate checks to ensure that any individual or organisation using college facilities is not seeking to disseminate extremist views or radicalise learners or staff. For more details see

Non-collection of children

If a child is not collected at the end of the session/day, we will:

Ring all the main contacts to inform them transport has not collected their son/daughter.

Ring the transport manager in the home and host Local Authority to enquire about transport for the student.

Ask for the child to be collected by the parent/carer. During this time with a member of staff who knows the child will wait with them.

If the parent cannot collect the child, Ambitious about Autism/Ambitious about Autism Schools Trust will organise for the child to be escorted home in a taxi or a company vehicle.

If the non-collection of a child is considered a safeguarding concern, then this would be reported as a concern to the DSL, who will make the appropriate referrals.

Missing learners

Our procedures are designed to ensure that a missing child is found and returned to effective supervision as soon as possible. If a child goes missing from college, we will invoke the Missing from Education policy and procedure.

Mental Illness

Mental illness, like physical illness, can range from having a few mild symptoms and feeling a bit severe and is characterised by a combination of abnormal emotions, thoughts, behaviours, and relationships with others.

These problems can be worsened for those with greater support needs, particularly if they are unable to communicate about their feelings or communicate their distress.

Most mental illnesses can be successfully treated by self-management, talking therapies and/or medication. Any member of staff who is concerned about the mental health or wellbeing of a learner/pupil should speak to the DSL. If you are unable to contact the DSL, please contact the DSL's back-up contact.

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