

SAFEGUARDING CHILD PROTECTION POLICY 2019 / 2020



Date: December 2019

Signed (Chair of Governors) *C. Ganev* Dec 2019

To be Reviewed: **Dec 2020**

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IMPORTANT NOTICE

SAFEGUARDING AND PROMOTING THE WELFARE OF CHILDREN IS EVERYONE'S RESPONSIBILITY

Everyone who comes into contact with children and their families and carers has a role to play in safeguarding children. All professionals should ensure that their approach is child centred: this means considering at all times what is in the best interests of the child

Staff members must raise any safeguarding concerns with the appropriate safeguarding lead without delay. Concerns must be logged.

If a staff member has serious concerns about immediate risk to a child or that a child has suffered significant harm and continues to be at risk, they should contact Wandsworth Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH) immediately or the appropriate council MASH - wherever possible with the support of the designated safeguarding lead or a deputy lead. If a child is in immediate danger the police should also be contacted.

Staff members should ensure they are prepared for the referral with clear details of their concern and the child's name, dob, address and contact details for parents / carers.

An Early Help assessment is not immediately required in these circumstances but should be provided within 48 hours.

Referrals to MASH can be made by:

Telephone: 020 8871 6622

e-mail: MASH@wandsworth.gov.uk

The MASH is in operation Monday – Friday 9.00am to 5.00pm. At other times please contact the Out of Hours Duty Service on 020 8871 6000.

INTRODUCTION

The Governors and staff of St Francis Xavier College fully recognise the responsibilities and duty placed upon them to have arrangements to safeguard and promote the welfare of all pupils at the college. We recognise that all staff, including volunteers, have a full and active part to play in protecting pupils from harm.

Safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children is defined as:

- Protecting children from maltreatment
- Preventing impairment of children's health or development
- Ensuring that children grow up in circumstances consistent with the provision of safe and effective care
- Taking action to enable all children to have the best outcomes

We believe that our college should provide a caring, positive, safe and stimulating environment in which pupils can learn and which promotes the social, physical and emotional wellbeing of each individual pupil, and which takes a child-centred approach.

The college recognises its responsibilities and duties to report Child Protection concerns to the social work service within Children's Services and to assist Children's Services in Child Protection enquiries and in supporting Children in Need. We will continue to work with a number of LAs throughout London.

This policy is in line with the London Child Protection Procedures 2017 (5th edition) (updates 30th September 2019), Working Together to Safeguard Children 2018 and Keeping Children Safe in Education 2019.

The college will raise Child Protection / Safeguarding concerns with parents / carers at the earliest appropriate opportunity, and work in partnership with them and other agencies to improve outcomes.

The college will ensure that all staff are provided with the appropriate training in Child Protection and safeguarding issues, including Early Help processes, as recommended in the guidance. In particular, the designated safeguarding leads will be released to attend the necessary enhanced training courses to enable them to carry out their role effectively. Designated leads will also ensure that all staff are provided with Part One of Keeping Children Safe in Education 2019 guidance and assisted to understand and discharge their roles and responsibilities as set out in this guidance. They will sign this and return acknowledgement to the DSL.

All staff are required to read this policy carefully and to be aware of their role in these processes. All new staff will have the opportunity to discuss safeguarding requirements and this policy during their induction process.

AIMS

- To raise awareness of all college staff of the need to safeguard all children and of their responsibilities in identifying and reporting possible cases of abuse
- To emphasise the need for good communication between all members of staff in matters relating to child protection
- To develop a structured procedure within the college which will be followed by all members of the college community in cases of suspected abuse
- To provide a systematic means of monitoring pupils known or thought to be at risk of significant harm or where there are ongoing concerns
- To work openly and in partnership with parents in relation to child protection concerns
- To support all pupils' development in ways that will foster security, confidence and independence
- To promote safe practice and challenge poor and unsafe practice
- To further develop and promote effective working relationships with other agencies involved with safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children

- To ensure that all adults working within our college have been checked as to their suitability to work with children, in line with current guidance
- To integrate opportunities into the curriculum and tutorial for children to develop the skills they need to recognise and stay safe from abuse, allowing for continuity and progression through college
- To take account of and inform policy in related areas, such as anti-bullying; e-safety; discipline and behaviour; health and safety; missing children; child sexual exploitation; FGM; peer on peer abuse; honour based violence; anti-radicalisation; positive handling and physical intervention procedures; procedures for dealing with allegations against staff and recruitment practice

DEFINITIONS

- Child abuse is taken to refer to any child of under 18 years who, through the actions of adults (with a caring role for that child) or their failure to act, has suffered or is at risk of suffering significant harm. Children may be abused in a family or in an institutional or community setting by those known to them or, more rarely, by others (eg via the internet). They may be abused by adults or another child or children
- Behaviours such as alcohol and substance misuse, truancy and sexting put children at risk or in danger and safeguarding issues can manifest themselves via peer-on-peer abuse, including cyber-bullying and gender-based violence / sexual assaults
- Abuse is broadly divided into four categories:- Neglect, Physical Injury, Sexual Abuse and Emotional Abuse. Brief definitions are given below. Guidance for recognising the indicators of possible abuse are attached as Appendix 3.
- **Neglect** is the persistent failure to meet a child's basic physical and/or psychological needs, likely to result in the serious impairment of the child's health or development. It may involve a parent or carer failing to provide adequate food, shelter or clothing, failing to protect a child from physical harm or danger or the failure to ensure access to appropriate medical care and treatment. It may also include neglect of, or unresponsiveness to a child's basic emotional needs.
- **Physical abuse** may involve hitting, shaking, throwing, poisoning, burning or scalding, drowning, suffocating or otherwise causing physical harm to a child. Physical harm may also be caused when a parent or carer feigns the symptoms of, or deliberately causes ill health to a child who they are looking after. This situation is now known as illness fabricated or induced by carer (previously Munchausen Syndrome by Proxy).
- **Sexual abuse** involves forcing or enticing a child or a young person to take part in sexual activities, whether or not the child is aware of what is happening. The activities may involve physical contact, including penetrative (e,g rape) or non-penetrative acts. They may include non-contact activities, such as involving children in looking at pornographic material or watching sexual activities or encouraging children to behave in sexually inappropriate ways.

- **Emotional abuse** is the persistent ill treatment of a child, such as to cause severe and persistent adverse effects on the child's emotional development. It may involve conveying to children that they are worthless or unloved, inadequate or valued only insofar as they meet the needs of the other person. It may feature age or developmentally inappropriate expectations being imposed on children. It may involve causing children frequently to feel frightened or in danger, or the exploitation or corruption of children. Some level of emotional abuse is involved in all types of ill treatment of a child although it may occur alone.

It is important to recognise that many children will be living (or may have lived) in families where **Domestic Abuse** is a factor, and that these situations have a harmful impact on children emotionally, as well as placing them at risk of physical harm. The definition of Domestic abuse is below:

- Any incident or pattern of incidents of controlling, coercive or threatening behaviour, violence or abuse between those aged 16 or over who are or have been intimate partners or family members regardless of gender or sexuality.

Child sexual exploitation (CSE) involves exploitative situations, contexts and relationships where young people receive something (for example food, accommodation, drugs, alcohol, gifts, money or in some cases simply affection) as a result of engaging in sexual activities. Sexual exploitation can take many forms ranging from the seemingly 'consensual' relationship where sex is exchanged for affection or gifts, to serious organised crime by gangs and groups. What marks out exploitation is an imbalance of power in the relationship. The perpetrator always holds some kind of power over the victim which increases as the exploitative relationship develops. Sexual exploitation involves varying degrees of coercion, intimidation or enticement, including unwanted pressure from peers to have sex, sexual bullying including cyberbullying and grooming. However, it is also important to recognise that some young people who are being sexually exploited do not exhibit any external signs of this abuse.

Female Genital Mutilation (FGM): professionals in all agencies, and individuals and groups in relevant communities, need to be alert to the possibility of a girl being at risk of FGM, or already having suffered FGM. There is a range of potential indicators that a child or young person may be at risk of FGM, which individually may not indicate risk but if there are two or more indicators present this could signal a risk to the child or young person. Victims of FGM are likely to come from a community that is known to practise FGM. Professionals should note that girls at risk of FGM may not yet be aware of the practice or that it may be conducted on them, so sensitivity should always be shown when approaching the subject.

FGM is illegal in the UK and there is a mandatory duty on colleges to report cases of FGM to the police.

Children Who Go Missing from Home or Care are particularly vulnerable and may be at significant risk at times. The immediate risks associated with going missing include:

- No means of support or legitimate income – leading to high risk activities
- Involvement in criminal activities
- Victim of Abuse
- Victim of crime, for example through sexual assault and exploitation
- Alcohol/substance misuse
- Deterioration of physical and mental health
- Missing out on schooling and education

- Increased vulnerability

Longer-term risks include:

- Long-term drug dependency / alcohol dependency
- Crime
- Homelessness
- Disengagement from education
- Child sexual exploitation
- Poor physical and/or mental health.

Children Missing from Education: all children, regardless of their circumstances, are entitled to a full-time education which is suitable to their age, ability and aptitude and any special educational needs they may have. A child going missing from education is a potential indicator of abuse and neglect, including sexual abuse or exploitation, child criminal exploitation or mental health problems.

We will follow the required procedures for unauthorised absence and for dealing with children who go missing from education, including appropriate notification to the Local Authority. We will also ensure staff are alert to the potential risks of poor or non attendance and cessation of attendance, including the signs to look out for and triggers to be aware of when considering the risks of potential concerns such as travelling to war zones, FGM, forced marriage and county lines.

Prevent: all colleges must have due regard to the need to prevent pupils from being drawn into terrorism or being radicalised. We will ensure that staff are provided with appropriate training and information to enable them to assess the risk of children being drawn into extremist ideas that are part of terrorist ideology and identify any child who may be at risk and how to support them. We will also ensure that children are safe from terrorist and extremist material when accessing the internet in school. Concerns will be discussed with the child's parents whenever possible and with the Local Authority Prevent co-ordinator and referrals made to the Channel programme when appropriate.

Children and the court system

Children are sometimes required to give evidence in criminal courts, either for crimes committed against them or for crimes they have witnessed. There are two age appropriate guides to support children 5-11-year olds and 12-17 year olds.

The guides explain each step of the process and support and special measures that are available. There are diagrams illustrating the courtroom structure and the use of video links is explained.

Making child arrangements via the family courts following separation can be stressful and entrench conflict in families. This can be stressful for children. The Ministry of Justice has launched an online child arrangements information tool with clear and concise information on the dispute resolution service. This may be useful for some parents and carers. The college will ensure appropriate information is given to all stakeholders in these instances.

Domestic abuse

The cross-government definition of domestic violence and abuse is:

Any incident or pattern of incidents of controlling, coercive, threatening behaviour, violence or abuse between those aged 16 or over who are, or have been, intimate partners or family members regardless of gender or sexuality. The abuse can encompass, but is not limited to:

- psychological;
- physical;
- sexual;
- financial; and
- emotional

Exposure to domestic abuse and/or violence can have a serious, long lasting emotional and psychological impact on children. In some cases, a child may blame themselves for the abuse or may have had to leave the family home as a result. Domestic abuse affecting young people can also occur within their personal relationships, as well as in the context of their home life.

Children with family members in prison

Approximately 200,000 children have a parent sent to prison each year. These children are at risk of poor outcomes including poverty, stigma, isolation and poor mental health. NICCO provides information designed to support professionals working with offenders and their children, to help mitigate negative consequences for those children.

Child criminal exploitation: county lines

Criminal exploitation of children is a geographically widespread form of harm that is a typical feature of county lines criminal activity: drug networks or gangs groom and exploit children and young people to carry drugs and money from urban areas to suburban and rural areas, market and seaside towns. Key to identifying potential involvement in county lines are missing episodes, when the victim may have been trafficked for the purpose of transporting drugs and a referral to the National Referral Mechanism should be considered. Like other forms of abuse and exploitation, county lines exploitation:

- can affect any child or young person (male or female) under the age of 18 years;
- can affect any vulnerable adult over the age of 18 years;
- can still be exploitation even if the activity appears consensual;
- can involve force and/or enticement-based methods of compliance and is often accompanied by violence or threats of violence;
- can be perpetrated by individuals or groups, males or females, and young people or adults; and
- is typified by some form of power imbalance in favour of those perpetrating the exploitation. Whilst age may be the most obvious, this power imbalance can also be due to a range of other factors including gender, cognitive ability, physical strength, status, and access to economic or other resources.

Homelessness

Being homeless or being at risk of becoming homeless presents a real risk to a child's welfare. The designated safeguarding lead (and any deputies) will be aware of contact details and referral routes in to the Local Housing Authority so they can raise/progress concerns at the earliest opportunity. Indicators that a family may be at risk of homelessness

include household debt, rent arrears, domestic abuse and anti-social behaviour, as well as the family being asked to leave a property. Whilst referrals and or discussion with the Local Housing Authority should be progressed as appropriate, and in accordance with local procedures, this does not, and should not, replace a referral into children's social care where a child has been harmed or is at risk of harm.

KEY PRINCIPLES

- We believe that all children have a right to be protected from harm and /or abuse
- We recognise that abuse and neglect are complex issues and rarely stand alone events and therefore require a culture of vigilance, professional curiosity and respectful challenge and effective recording and monitoring systems
- We recognise that abuse occurs in all cultures, religions and social classes and that staff need to be sensitive to the many differing factors which need to be taken into account depending on the child's cultural and social background when dealing with CP issues. However, we also recognise that the needs of the child are paramount and any concerns will be referred on appropriately whatever the family background of the child concerned.
- We recognise that because of the day to day contact with children college staff are extremely well placed to observe outward signs of abuse
- We recognise that a child who is abused or witnesses abuse or violence may find it difficult to develop and maintain a sense of self-worth, they may feel helpless and humiliated and may feel self blame.
- We recognise that the college may provide the only stability in the lives of children who have been abused or are at risk of harm.
- We accept that research shows that the behaviour of a child in these circumstances may range from that which is perceived as normal to that which is overtly aggressive, disturbed or withdrawn.
- We know that it is important that children feel secure, are encouraged to talk and are sensitively listened to, and that children know that there are adults in school whom they can approach if they are worried or unhappy.
- We acknowledge that (although all designated / key staff have the skills and experience to respond to a variety of situations and issues) there may be occasions where it will be appropriate to consider whether specific or additional arrangements need to be put in place where an issue is particularly sensitive due to gender issues or cultural or faith issues. This ensures that in cases of sexual abuse in particular, a pupil can be spoken to by a same sex member of staff (who has received enhanced training) if this is felt to be appropriate.
- We adhere to the principles of working in partnership with those who hold parental responsibility for each child.
- The prime concern at all times must be the welfare and safety of the child. Where there is a conflict between the needs of the child and the parent/carer, the interests of the child must be paramount.
- The ethos of the college supports open practice, good communication and a safe culture in which children can thrive and learn.
- All staff and volunteers should feel able to raise concerns about poor or unsafe practice and know that these concerns will be taken seriously by the leadership team and dealt with sensitively and appropriately

PROCEDURES

Our college procedures are in line with those agreed by the Wandsworth Safeguarding Children Partnership Published Arrangements (27th June 2019), the LA and the Secretary of State (see Appendix 1 for details of relevant procedural and guidance documents)

We will therefore ensure that

- We have a designated member of staff who has received appropriate training and support for this role, in accordance with mandatory requirements.
- We have a minimum of one additional member of staff who will act in the absence of the designated member of staff and has also received appropriate training for this role.
- We will ensure designated staff attend training and receive relevant updates every year and all staff are provided with training at induction and thereafter on a regular basis including safeguarding briefings and updates at least annually
- Every member of staff, volunteer and governor knows the name of the designated safeguarding lead (DSL) and their role and what the back up arrangements are if the DSL is unavailable.
- All staff are familiar with the school's Safeguarding and Child Protection Policy as well as the staff code of conduct and these issues are included in the induction for each new staff member
- All staff develop their understanding of signs and indicators of abuse and report any concerns to the designated lead but know that they can also refer direct to Children's Services (Social Services) if needed
- We will ensure that all staff are aware that it is important to identify any concerns about children at as early a stage as possible so that their needs can be identified and monitored and appropriate support put in place
- We recognise that there is a variety of expertise within the staff team and will provide opportunities for staff to contribute to and shape safeguarding arrangements and policy
- We are aware of risks to children online and will ensure children are safeguarded in school from potentially harmful and inappropriate online material through appropriate filtering and monitoring systems.
- When considering referrals to support agencies the college will act in accordance with the WSCP Thresholds for Intervention document, which is consistent with the London-wide Continuum of Need thresholds
- All staff are aware that they should raise any concerns about colleagues or other adults with the DSL
- All staff know how to respond to a child who discloses abuse.
- All parents / carers are made aware of the responsibilities of staff members with regard to Child Protection procedures.
- We will refer any child believed to have suffered or to be likely to suffer significant harm to Children's Social Care in the appropriate LA without delay, and will follow up any such referral in writing within 48 hours
- We will ensure the immediate safety of any child felt to be at serious risk by taking appropriate action and by involving other relevant agencies as necessary
- We will develop effective links with relevant agencies and co-operate as required with their enquiries regarding child protection matters, including attendance at CP

case conferences wherever possible and providing reports as a matter of course (model format attached as appendix 2). We will contribute to multi – agency assessments of children’s needs where appropriate and work in a fully integrated way with other relevant services as appropriate.

- If a child’s situation does not appear to be improving, the college will take responsibility for finding out what is happening and keep pressing for action to be taken
- Written records are kept of all concerns, whether or not there is a need to refer the matter immediately, and that these records are kept on the pastoral log. Sensitive information may only be seen by designated pastoral staff.
- All concerns, discussions and decisions made and the reasons for those decisions are recorded in writing.
- All staff members are made aware of the record keeping requirements and how they are expected to record any safeguarding concerns.
- The child’s social worker is notified of any pupil subject to a Child Protection Plan who is absent from college without explanation for a period of time
- Any new concern or relevant information about a child subject to a Child Protection Plan will be passed to the child’s allocated social worker without delay
- If a child subject to a Child Protection Plan leaves the college, records will be transferred to the new school / college without delay and the child’s social worker informed of the change
- If college staff are unsure how to proceed in a potential Child Protection situation, or require advice, this will be appropriately sought via the Education Safeguarding Advisor, a duty social worker or directly from the Safeguarding Standards Service. (useful numbers listed in Appendix 5)

EARLY INTERVENTION AND HELP

- All staff recognise that when a child or family may be experiencing difficulties, support is most effective if it is provided at as early a stage as possible
- This involves identifying emerging problems; liaising with the designated lead or other relevant colleagues; sharing information with other professionals to support early identification and acting as lead professional in undertaking an Early Help Assessment (EHA)
- Any concerns will be identified by staff, discussed with relevant colleagues and parents and support put in place. Effective monitoring systems will be used to assess the effectiveness of interventions and outcomes.
- If appropriate support is not available within college’s own resources, an Early Help Assessment will be completed to identify the child’s needs and enable additional support to be sought from other agencies
- A Team Around the Child will be established where appropriate and a Lead Professional identified
- If Early Help is in place the situation will be kept under constant review and consideration given to additional referrals (eg to social care) if the child’s situation does not appear to be improving
- Early Help Assessments will follow the Signs of Safety and Wellbeing model

CURRICULUM INPUT

- We ensure that children are taught about safeguarding, including how to keep themselves safe online, through teaching and learning opportunities within our curriculum and tutorial.

CHILDREN WITH SPECIAL EDUCATIONAL NEEDS / DISABILITIES

- We recognise that children with SEN / Disabilities may be especially vulnerable to abuse and expect staff to take extra care to interpret apparent signs of abuse or neglect.
- We will ensure assumptions are not made that indicators of abuse (such as behaviour, mood and injury) relate to the child's disability without further exploration
- We will provide a college environment in which all pupils, including those with SEN, can feel confident and able to discuss their concerns.
- The designated member of staff will work with the ALS co-ordinator, where necessary, to ensure that the needs of ALS pupils in relation to child protection issues are responded to appropriately (eg for a child with particular communication needs).
- We recognise that children with SEND are at a higher risk of bullying and isolation.

LOOKED AFTER CHILDREN

- The college will ensure there is a designated teacher whose role is to promote the educational achievement of children who are looked after, and that the identified person has received appropriate training as defined in the Children and Young Persons Act 2008.
- We will ensure that appropriate staff have the information they need in relation to a child's looked after legal status (whether they are looked after under voluntary arrangements with consent of parents or on an interim or full care order) and contact arrangements with birth parents or those with parental responsibility. They will also have information about the child's care arrangements and the levels of authority delegated to the carer by the authority looking after him/her, as well as the details of the child's social worker and the virtual school head in the LA.
- College will work with the virtual school head to discuss how the guaranteed bursary can be best used to support the progress of Looked After Children in the college.

MENTAL HEALTH AND BEHAVIOUR

- In order to help our pupils to succeed, we recognise that the college plays an important role in supporting them to be resilient and mentally healthy
- We will ensure that pupils and their families are enabled to participate as fully as possible in decisions and are provided with information and support
- We recognise that some children are more at risk of developing mental health problems than others. These risks can relate to the child, their family or to community and life events
- Risk factors are cumulative, and children exposed to multiple risks are more likely to develop behavioural or mental health problems
- Where severe problems occur we will ensure that appropriate referrals are made (with consent) to specialist services (eg CAMHS)

COMMUNICATION WITH PARENTS / CARERS

- We will ensure that all parents are informed that the school has a child protection / safeguarding policy and is required to follow WSCP guidelines in respect of reporting suspected abuse to Children's Social Care.

- Pupils and parents will be made aware of how the college's safeguarding system works and with whom they can discuss any concerns.
- Information will also be made available about any local and national telephone helplines.
- In individual cases, parents will be notified of the college's concerns at the earliest appropriate opportunity.

CONFIDENTIALITY

- We recognise that matters related to Child Protection are of a confidential nature. The designated member of staff and / or Principal will therefore share detailed information about a pupil with other staff members on a need to know basis only.
- All staff must be aware that they have a professional responsibility to share information with the designated lead and with other relevant agencies where necessary to safeguard and promote the welfare of children.
- All staff must be aware that they cannot promise a child that they will keep certain information secret.

SUPPORT FOR STAFF

- We recognise that staff working in the college who have been dealing with child protection issues may find the situation stressful or upsetting
- We will ensure that opportunities are provided for staff to be supported in these circumstances and to talk through any anxieties they may have
- We will ensure that formal supervision is provided for staff working in student welfare
- We will consider what arrangements can be made to provide supervision for designated leads and any other staff members as appropriate

ALLEGATIONS AGAINST STAFF

- We recognise that there will be occasions when a student at the college, or a parent or another person may make an allegation against a member of staff. The term 'allegations' refers to concerns reported or raised that might indicate a person has caused harm to a child, acted in a way that created potential serious risk to a child or would pose a risk of harm if they continue to work in regular or close contact with children in their present position, or in any capacity. This means it has been alleged that a teacher or member of staff (including volunteers) in a school or college that provides education for children under 18 years of age has:
 - ☐ behaved in a way that has, or may have, harmed a child;
 - ☐ possibly committed a criminal offence against or related to a child; or
 - ☐ behaved towards a child or children in a way that indicates he or she would pose a risk of harm to children.
- In this event the Principal (or Chair of Governors, if allegation is against the Head) must be informed and the Wandsworth Procedures for Managing Allegations against Staff followed. This will always involve a discussion with LA officers and a referral to the Local Authority Designated Officer (LADO) where appropriate.
- All staff are expected to recognise the need for absolute confidentiality in these situations.

SAFE RECRUITMENT

- The college will ensure that it operates a safe recruitment policy to ensure that all those working in the college, in either a paid or unpaid capacity are suitable to do so as far as can be reasonably ascertained.
- Senior Leaders and any other staff involved in selection procedures will attend Safer Recruitment training
- Appropriate checks ie enhanced DBS checks and checks against the barred list will be carried out on all potential employees and volunteers, and all references will be taken up and verified. The college will ensure it is following the most recent guidance in respect of these issues, including taking account of the definition of regulated activity
- Interview panels will follow recommendations from the HR section in relation to practice. One member of each interview panel must have completed Safer Recruitment training
- At interview, candidates will be asked to account for any gaps in their employment history.
- The college obtains written confirmation from supply agencies or third party organisations that agency staff or other individuals who may work in the college have been appropriately checked and are suitable to work with children.
- Trainee teachers will be checked either by the college or by the training provider, from whom written confirmation will be obtained confirming their suitability to work with children.

GOVERNING BODY RESPONSIBILITIES

- The Governors will ensure that they comply with their duties under legislation. They will ensure that the policies, procedures and training in their college is effective and complies with the law at all times and take into account the procedures and practice of the WSCP.
- A member of the Governing Body is nominated as the Safeguarding Governor. It is their responsibility to liaise with the Local Authority and/or other partner agencies in the event of an allegation being made against the Principal.
- The Governors will remedy any deficiencies or weaknesses in regard to Child Protection arrangements that are brought to its attention without delay

POSITIVE HANDLING and PHYSICAL INTERVENTION

- Our policy on positive handling and physical intervention by staff is set out in a separate document and acknowledges that staff should only use physical intervention in particular circumstances, and that even when necessary the minimum force should be used to prevent harm to the child or another child or adult.
- Positive handling training will be provided by a BILD accredited trainer for relevant staff members to ensure best practice at all times.
- Risk assessments will be carried out where individual pupils have additional needs or challenges that mean there is an increased likelihood of physical interventions being

required and individual plans will be developed and shared/agreed with the parents/carers

- Physical intervention which causes injury or severe distress to a child may have to be considered under child protection or disciplinary procedures.

SPECIFIC SAFEGUARDING ISSUES

- Up-to-date guidance and practical support on specific safeguarding issues will be sought where necessary
- The DSL will attend relevant training and ensure that staff are aware of issues such as Child Sexual Exploitation, Female Genital Mutilation, Illness Fabricated and Induced, Domestic Abuse, Honour based Violence etc, and understand the indicators and recognise the complexities of these issues for young people

ANTI - RADICALISATION

The college supports the Prevent Strategy, which works to prevent the growth of issues that create a climate which encourages radicalisation and extremism, which in turn can lead to acts of violence or terrorism.

Radicalisation is defined as the act or process of making a person more radical or favouring of extreme or fundamental changes in political, economic or social conditions.

Extremism is defined as the holding of extreme political or religious views which may deny rights to any group or individual.

All staff members are aware of these issues and relevant staff have attended training.

The college works within the curriculum and tutorial to promote tolerance and respect for diverse views, while challenging prejudice of any kind. We are an inclusive college which values citizenship and a sense of belonging. Pupils are encouraged to share their views and recognise that they are entitled to have different beliefs, but that these should not be used to influence others.

As with all matters pertaining to the maintenance of a safeguarding culture within the college, staff are expected to be vigilant in identifying concerns and ensuring these are passed to the DSL without delay.

If any concerns arise, or are disclosed by a child, they will be responded to following normal safeguarding processes and advice would be sought from colleagues in LA (either Prevent co-ordinator or safeguarding services) if necessary.

CHILDREN WHO ABUSE OTHER CHILDREN

Children may be harmed by other children or young people. Staff will be aware of the harm caused by bullying and will use the school's anti-bullying procedures where necessary. However, all staff recognise that children can abuse their peers and should be clear about the school's policy and procedures regarding peer on peer abuse. All peer on peer abuse is unacceptable and will be taken seriously.

Peer on peer abuse can take many forms, including:

- **physical abuse** such as biting, hitting, kicking or hair pulling
- **sexually harmful behaviour/sexual abuse** such as inappropriate sexual language, touching, sexual assault or rape
- **sexting** including pressuring another person to send a sexual imagery or video content
- **teenage relationship abuse** - defined as a pattern of actual or threatened acts of physical, sexual or emotional abuse, perpetrated against a current or former partner
- **upskirting** – taking a picture under a person’s clothing without their knowledge
- **initiation/hazing** - used to induct newcomers into an organisation such as sports team or school groups by subjecting them to a series of potentially humiliating, embarrassing or abusing trials which promote a bond between them
- **prejudiced behaviour** - a range of behaviours which causes someone to feel powerless, worthless or excluded and which relates to prejudices around belonging, identity and equality, in particular prejudices linked to disabilities, special educational needs, ethnic, cultural and religious backgrounds, gender and sexual identity.

Abuse is abuse and should never be tolerated or passed off as ‘banter’ or ‘part of growing up’. Different gender issues can be prevalent when dealing with peer on peer abuse, for example girls being sexually touched/assaulted or boys being subject to initiation/hazing type violence.

At our college, we take the following steps to minimise or prevent the risk of peer on peer abuse.

- An open and honest environment where young people feel safe to share information about anything that is upsetting or worrying them.
- Assemblies are used to provide a moral framework outlining acceptable behaviour and stressing the effects of bullying.
- RP and tutorial are used to reinforce the message through stories, role play, current affairs and other suitable activities.
- Staff will endeavour always to create surroundings where everyone feels confident and at ease in college.
- We will ensure that the college is well supervised, especially in areas where children might be vulnerable.

All allegations of peer on peer abuse should be passed to the DSL immediately. They will then be investigated and dealt with as follows.

- **Information gathering** – children, staff and witnesses will be spoken with as soon as possible to gather relevant information quickly to understand the situation and assess whether there was intent to cause harm.
- **Decide on action** – if it is believed that any young person is at risk of significant harm, a referral will be made to children's social care. The DSL will then work with children's social care to decide on next steps, which may include contacting the police.
- **Inform parents** - as with other concerns of abuse, the school will normally seek to discuss concerns about a pupil with parents. Our focus is the safety and wellbeing of the pupil and so if the college believes that notifying parents could increase the risk to the child or exacerbate the problem, advice will first be sought from children's social care and/or the police before parents are contacted.

Where allegations of sexual violence or sexual harassment are made, the college will act in accordance with the guidance set out in *Keeping Children Safe in Education (2019)*.

SERIOUS VIOLENCE

All staff are made aware of indicators that children are at risk from or are involved with serious violent crime. These include increased absence, a change in friendships or relationships with older individuals or groups, a significant decline in performance, signs of self-harm or a significant change in wellbeing, or signs of assault or unexplained injuries. Unexplained gifts could also indicate that children have been approached by or are involved with individuals associated with criminal gangs.

FILE TRANSFER

Where children leave the college, the designated safeguarding lead will ensure their child protection file is transferred to the new school or college as soon as possible, ensuring secure transit, and confirmation of receipt should be obtained.

Receiving schools and colleges should ensure key staff such as designated safeguarding leads and SENCOs or the named person with oversight for SEN in a college, are aware as required. A note of the file location will be placed on the pastoral log.

In addition to the child protection file, the designated safeguarding lead will also consider if it would be appropriate to share any information with the new school or college in advance of a child leaving. For example, information that would allow the new school or college to continue supporting victims of abuse and have that support in place for when the child arrives.

OTHER RELATED POLICIES

- This policy has clear links to other policies in our college, in particular to any policies concerned with the protection of all children in the college from various kinds of harm. These policies are listed below:
 - staff code of conduct, including acceptable use of technologies, staff/pupil relationships, communications including use of social media
 - whistleblowing
 - anti-bullying
 - e-safety
 - code of conduct
 - positive handling and physical intervention
 - discrimination (sex, race and disability)
 - health and safety
 - safer recruitment

Appendix 1

London Child Protection Procedures, 5th edition

available electronically London SCB website – www.londonscb.gov.uk

London Safeguarding Children supplementary procedures

These provide detailed information related to specific safeguarding issues. They are available via the London SCB website (as above).

Keeping Children Safe in Education

DfES statutory guidance issued Sept 2019

Keeping Children Safe in Education 2019

Or via www.gov.uk/government/publications

Working Together to Safeguard Children 2018

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/working-together-to-safeguard-children--2>

What To Do If You Are Worried a Child Is Being Abused

[What to do if you are worried – revised guidance for all professionals to use if they are worried a child may be being abused](#)

Information Sharing Guidance

[Information Sharing Guidance 2015 – revised guidance on information sharing for all professionals](#)

Managing Allegations Against Staff

WSCB guidance, available on WSC website. www.wscb.org.uk

Children Missing from Home and Care

WSCB procedures, available on WSC website www.wscb.org.uk

Positive Handling

WSCB guidance, available on WSC website www.wscb.org.uk

Sexual exploitation

WSCB protocol and guidance, available on WSC website www.wscb.org.uk

Domestic Violence – guide for schools

Wandsworth guidance issued June 2012

Thresholds for Intervention – Multi-Agency guidance

Wandsworth Guidance issued 2014, available on WSCB website www.wscb.org.uk

Mental Health and Behaviour in schools – departmental advice for school staff

DfE guidance, issued June 2014

DFE-00435-2014 www.gov.uk/government/publications

Whistleblowing policy – Wandsworth Council HR or general guidance can be found at

<https://www.gov.uk/whistleblowing>

The NSPCC whistleblowing helpline is available for staff who do not feel able to raise concerns regarding child protection failures internally. Staff can call: 0800 028 0285 – line is available from 8:00 AM to 8:00 PM, Monday to Friday and Email: help@nspcc.org.uk

Appendix 2

School report to Child Protection Conference or Looked After Child review

School	
Name of child	
Date of birth Year group	
Name of tutor / HOF	

When completing the sections below consider issues such as attendance and punctuality; preparation for school / learning; general appearance; emotional presentation and wellbeing; indicators that child may have suffered harm / be at risk of harm; disclosures made by child; behaviour and social development; relationships with peers and adults; academic progress/ areas requiring improvement; contact with family; etc

What is working well?

What are we worried about?

Recognising Physical Abuse

The following are often regarded as indicators of concern:

- An explanation which is inconsistent with an injury
- Several different explanations provided for an injury
- Unexplained delay in seeking treatment
- The parents / carers are uninterested or undisturbed by an accident or an injury
- Parents are absent without good reason when their child is presented for treatment
- Repeated presentation of minor injuries (which may represent a 'cry for help' and if ignored could lead to a more serious injury).
- Family use of different doctors and A&E departments
- Reluctance to give information or mention previous injuries

Bruising

Children can have accidental bruising, but the following must be considered as non accidental unless there is evidence or an adequate explanation provided:

- Any bruising to a pre-crawling or pre-walking baby
- Bruising in or around the mouth, particularly in small babies which may indicate force feeding
- Two simultaneous bruised eyes, without bruising to the forehead (rarely accidental, though a single bruised eye can be accidental or abusive)
- Repeated or multiple bruising on the head or on sites unlikely to be injured accidentally
- Variation in colour possibly indicating injuries caused at different times
- The outline of an object used e.g. belt marks, hand prints or a hair brush
- Bruising or tears around, or behind, the earlobe/s indicating injury by pulling or twisting
- Bruising around the face
- Grasp marks on small children
- Bruising on the arms, buttocks and thighs may be an indicator of sexual abuse

Bite Marks

Bite marks can leave clear impressions of the teeth. Human bite marks are oval or crescent shape. Those over 3 cm in diameter are more likely to have been caused by an adult or an older child.

A medical opinion should be sought where there is any doubt over the origin of the bite.

Burns and Scalds

It can be difficult to distinguish between accidental and non-accidental burns and scalds, and will always require experienced medical opinion. Any burn with a clear outline may be suspicious e.g:

- Circular burns from cigarettes (but may be friction burns if along the bony protuberance of the spine)
- Linear burns from hot metal rods or electrical fire elements
- Burns of uniform depth over a large area
- Scalds that have a line indicating immersion or poured liquid (a child getting into hot water of its own accord will struggle to get out and cause splash marks)
- Old scars indicating previous burns / scalds which did not have appropriate treatment or adequate explanation

Fractures

Fractures may cause pain, swelling and discoloration over a bone or a joint.

Non-mobile children rarely sustain fractures.

There are grounds for concern if:

- The history provided is vague, non-existent or inconsistent with the fracture type
- There are associated old fractures
- Medical attention is sought after a period of delay when the fracture has caused symptoms such as swelling, pain or loss of movement
- There is an unexplained fracture in the first year of life

Scars

A large number of scars or scars of different sizes or ages, or on different parts of body, may suggest abuse

Behavioural Indications

Some children may behave in ways that alert you to the possibility of physical injury, for example

- Withdrawal from physical contact
- Fear of returning home
- Self destructive tendencies
- Aggression towards others

Recognising Emotional Abuse

Emotional abuse may be difficult to recognise, as the signs are usually behavioural rather than physical. The manifestations of emotional abuse might also indicate the presence of other kinds of abuse.

The indicators of emotional abuse are often also associated with other forms of abuse.

The following may be indicators of emotional abuse:

- Developmental delay
- Abnormal attachment between a child and parent / carer e.g. anxious, indiscriminate or no attachment
- Aggressive behaviour towards others
- Scape-goated within the family
- Frozen watchfulness, particularly in pre-school children
- Low self esteem and lack of confidence
- Withdrawn or seen as a 'loner' – difficulty relating to others
- Over-reaction to mistakes
- Fear of new situations
- Inappropriate responses to painful situations
- Neurotic behaviours
- Self harming
- Running away

Recognising Neglect

Evidence of neglect is built up over a period of time and can cover different aspects of parenting. Indicators include:

- Failure by parents or carers to meet the basic essential needs e.g. adequate food, clothes, warmth, hygiene and medical care
- A child seen to be listless, apathetic and unresponsive with no apparent medical cause
- Failure of child to grow within normal expected pattern, with accompanying weight loss
- Child thrives away from home environment
- Child frequently absent from or late for school
- Child left with adults who are intoxicated or violent
- Child abandoned or left alone for excessive periods
- Compulsive stealing or scavenging

Recognising Sexual Abuse

Boys and girls of all ages may be sexually abused and are frequently scared to say anything due to guilt and / or fear. This is particularly difficult for a child to talk about and full account should be taken of the cultural sensitivities of any individual child / family.

Recognition can be difficult, unless the child discloses and is believed. There may be no physical signs and indications are likely to be emotional / behavioural.

Some behavioural indicators associated with this form of abuse are:

- Inappropriate sexualised conduct
- Sexually explicit behaviour, play or conversation, inappropriate for the child's age
- Continual and inappropriate or excessive masturbation
- Self-harm (including eating disorder, self mutilation and suicide attempts)
- Involvement in prostitution or indiscriminate choice of sexual partners
- An anxious unwillingness to remove clothes for e.g. sports events (but this may be related to cultural norms or physical difficulties)
- Concerning changes in behaviour or general presentation
- Regressive behaviour
- Distrust of a particular adult
- Unexplained gifts of money
- Sleep disturbances or nightmares
- Phobias or panic attacks

Some physical indicators associated with this form of abuse are:

- Pain or itching of genital area
- Blood on underclothes
- Pregnancy in a younger girl where the identity of the father is disclosed
- Physical symptoms such as injuries to the genital or anal areas, bruising to buttocks, abdomen and thighs, sexually transmitted disease, presence of semen in vagina, anus, external genitalia or clothing
- Wetting or soiling

Safeguarding / Child Protection protocol / procedures

St Francis Xavier College

The designated members of staff in our college are

CIARAN GRAHAM

LIZ HASKINS

JESSICA HARDY

JENNIFER SYKES

STELLA FLANNERY

All staff members have a statutory responsibility to safeguard and promote the welfare of all students at all times

If you have a concern about a student or you receive information that leads you to be concerned that a student has been harmed or is at risk of harm or their welfare is being compromised you are required to act appropriately to ensure action can be taken to protect the student concerned.

The concern may be as a result of a disclosure from a student, a parent or a third party or may arise due to behaviour that has caused you to become concerned.

If a student discloses abuse please note the following key points

- Listen carefully to what the pupil is telling you without interrupting
- Do not promise confidentiality
- Remain non judgemental and keep an open mind
- Do not ask leading questions, or more questions than you have to – just establish what the pupil is telling you
- Be honest with the student and explain what will happen next
- Record the information fully
- Pass on to the designated member of staff (DSL)

In the case of any concerns always record the information clearly and be clear how the concern has arisen.

If the information you have indicates that the student has suffered harm or there is a high level of risk, ensure this is passed to the DSL immediately.

In all other instances concerns should be passed on to the DSL as soon as possible – do not delay.

Please remember the DSL is available to offer help, advice and guidance to staff and pupils where necessary. If you have a concern or problem and are unclear how to proceed ask for advice.

In all cases ensure ongoing support is offered to the student as appropriate.

Appendix 5

Useful contacts

Stella Macaulay	0208 871 7961 office
Safeguarding In Education Advisor	07775 417475 b'berry
	07931 325 665 mobile

MASH / referral and assessment service	020 8871 6622
(duty SW)	

Out of hours duty service	020 8871 6000
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Safeguarding Standards Service (manager:Ruth Lacey)	
Principal administrator Jackie Reynolds	020 8871 7208
WSCB development manager Linde Webber	020 8871 8610

LADO	
Chantel Langenhoven	020 8871 7226
	020 8871 7440

LADO Duty	
Margaret Hurrell	020 8871 7207

Police PC Mark Belcher	07746906545
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Wandsworth safety net	0207 801 1777
(for Independent Domestic Abuse advisors)	

