

SAFEGUARDING AND CHILD PROTECTION AT KESWICK SCHOOL: A GUIDE FOR PARENTS



“ Education staff have a crucial role to play in helping identify welfare concerns and indicators of possible abuse or neglect”

Keswick School Safeguarding Policy

The aim of this policy is to safeguard and promote our student’s welfare, safety, health and guidance by fostering an honest, open, caring and supportive climate.

The student’s welfare is the paramount importance

There are three main elements to our Safeguarding Policy:

- **Prevention** – for example, positive school atmosphere, teaching and pastoral support to students.
- **Protection** – by following agreed procedures, ensuring all staff are appropriately recruited, trained and supported to respond appropriately and sensitively to Child Protection concerns.
- **Support** – To students and staff and to children who may have been abused.

School Commitment/Mission Statement

We recognise that high self -esteem, confidence, supportive friends and clear lines of communication with a trusted adult helps all young people and especially those at risk of, or suffering from abuse.

Keswick School will therefore:

- Establish and maintain an ethos where young people feel secure and are encouraged to talk and are listened to. We will ensure that young people know that there are adults in school who they can approach if they are worried or in difficulty.
- Ensure that wherever possible every effort will be made to establish effective working relationships with parents and colleagues from other agencies.
- Work with parents to build an understanding of the school’s responsibility to ensure the welfare of all children. This may occasionally require children to be referred to external agencies as a constructive and helpful measure.
- Be vigilant in cases of suspected child abuse, recognising the signs and symptoms, have clear procedures whereby all adults report such cases to the Designated Senior Lead (DSL) for Safeguarding, and are aware of local procedures so that Information is effectively passed on to the relevant professionals.
- It is important to make children and young people aware of behaviour towards them that is not acceptable and how they can help keep themselves safe. Through our Personal Development programme and also other PHSE type activities in school we will offer a range of opportunities for children and young people to learn about keeping safe: and who to ask for help if their safety is threatened, as part of developing a healthy, safer lifestyle. In addition there is a great deal of help and information contained on the CEOP website (Child Exploitation and Online Protection Centre), we would recommend visiting this site to help you to keep your children safe online.

- Have a clear understanding of the various types of bullying - physical, verbal, cyber, homophobic and indirect, and act promptly and firmly to combat it, making sure that pupils are aware of the school's position on this issue and who they can contact for support.

We want every child to fulfil their potential, regardless of their background or circumstances.

Supporting Pupils at Risk

- Our school recognises that children who are abused or who witness violence may find it difficult to develop a sense of self-worth and to view the world in a positive way. This school may be the only stable, secure and predictable element in the lives of children at risk.
- It is also recognised that some children who have experienced abuse may in turn abuse others. This requires a considered, sensitive approach in order that the child can receive appropriate help and support.
- The school will endeavour to support students through the curriculum, to encourage self-esteem and self-motivation.
- The school ethos promotes a positive, supportive and secure environment and gives all students and adults a sense of being respected and valued.
- It is important to have a consistent approach. This is vital to ensure that all children are supported within the school setting.
- Regular liaison with other professionals and agencies that support the students and their families is essential.
- The school has a commitment to develop productive and supportive relationships with parents whenever it is in the child's interests.
- The school guarantees the support of a responsive and knowledgeable staff group who are fully trained to respond appropriately in safeguarding/child protection situations.
- The school policy should be read in conjunction with other related policies in school. E.g. anti-bullying, self-harm and behaviour policies.

Further Guidance or Information

You can contact the Designated Safeguarding and Child Protection Lead (DSL) in school if you have any queries or questions relating to Safeguarding or Child Protection — the Deputy Head responsible for this is:

Ms W Lightfoot

Other sources of information:

- www.dfe.gov.uk
- www.nspcc.org.uk
- Keeping Children Safe in Education
- Keswick School Website