

## St Louis Grammar School Child Protection Summary Statement

St. Louis Grammar School recognises its five main responsibilities in the areas of Child Protection. These are in the areas of prevention, recognition, response, referral and confidentiality/record keeping. Parents will be made aware of the school's responsibilities and procedures and we hope they will support us in our practice. A full copy of the Policy is available on request

St. Louis offers protection on two levels:

- Immediate protection creating a listening environment that makes it easier for pupils to share their concerns.
- Long-term protection, enhancing self-esteem and encouraging social skills, breaking the cycle of abusive behaviour.

The Board of Governors ensures that St. Louis follows the Code of Practice for the conduct of all members of staff towards the pupils attending the school. The Code of Practice covers all activities organised in and by St. Louis whether on the school premises or elsewhere.

We ensure that persons beyond St. Louis who are invited to be involved as helpers/leaders on educational visits, residential visits, or other out of school educational activities are subject to vetting procedures in keeping with current arrangements for the care and protection of children and young people.

Recognition We recognise the following areas of possible Child Abuse:

Neglect – Physical - Sexual - Emotional



In the event of an allegation of child abuse the member of staff will:

- Listen to the pupil and accept what is said
- Record statements
- Explain what they have to do next and to whom they have to talk
- Reassure the pupil they have done the right thing to talk about it
- Refer information to the designated member of staff

Parents with concerns should contact Designated Staff -Mrs Lynch, Miss Carr, Mr Martin, Mr Loye. Parents with concerns can also contact social services directly.

If a pupil makes a disclosure to a teacher or other member of staff which gives rise to concerns about possible abuse, or if a member of staff has concerns about a pupil, the member of staff must act promptly. He/she should not investigate - but should report these concerns immediately to the designated member of staff, discuss the matter with him/her. The designated teacher will follow this up.

If there are concerns that the pupil may be at risk, the school is obliged to make a referral to Social Services. The school CP team will always seek advice from the Education Authority support team. Unless there are concerns that a parent may be the possible abuser, the parents will be informed immediately.

Allegations against a member of staff

If a complaint about possible child abuse is made against a member of staff, the Principal or the designated member of staff must be informed immediately.

If a complaint is made against the Principal, the designated member of staff must be informed immediately. He/She will inform the Chairman of the Board of Governors.



## **Monitoring and Evaluation**

St. Louis School will update the Child Protection Policy and Procedures in the light of any further guidance and legislation as necessary. Otherwise the Policy will be reviewed every three years.

## A full copy of this Policy is available on request from the school.