

WEST KIRBY RESIDENTIAL SCHOOL POLICY STATEMENT:

Safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people, and protecting them from harm and abuse

WKRS fully recognises its responsibilities for safeguarding children and is committed to safeguarding children and young people and expects all staff and volunteers to share this commitment. Pupils are also made aware of who to go to if they are worried or have any concerns about either their own or others safety. The school, due to its location, comes under the Wirral Local Safeguarding Board but is also required to refer all concerns for children who are not ordinarily resident on the Wirral to their local authority.

We will ensure that all our recruitment and selection practices reflect this commitment. Identity checks will be carried out with verification of qualifications. All employment records are kept up to date and available for inspection, investigation purposes. Interview procedures are robust, and all job descriptions and person specifications make reference to safeguarding. All successful candidates and all staff in employment with us will be subject to enhanced CRB checks along with other relevant employment checks.

We take all reasonable measures to ensure that risks to children are minimised, and take appropriate actions to address concerns about the welfare of any child or children, and follow the relevant legislation, as set out in statutory provisions in Children's and Education Acts. We work to agreed local policies and procedures, and adhere to the regulations set out in the National Minimum Standards for Residential Special Schools, and guidance *in Safeguarding Children and Safer Recruitment Education (January 2007)*.

We are committed to the five outcomes in Every Child Matters, which are given legal force in the Children Act 2004. We strongly believe that every child has the right to grow up in a safe and secure environment where they are protected from harm and have the chance to fulfil their potential. Those who work with children have a duty to safeguard and promote their welfare. This is an important responsibility, which requires vigilance. Children with Special Educational Needs may be especially vulnerable to abuse; therefore extra care should be taken in recognising signs of abuse and neglect.

Our child protection policy applies to all staff, governors and volunteers working in the school. All have a duty to refer concerns or allegations that a child is, or maybe, at risk of suffering significant harm immediately to the designated person/s. Senior staff are always involved in matters relating to children's wellbeing. All concerns should be reported to the designated child protection co-coordinator/s, who make contact with parent/s external professionals, and also undertake specialist training in accordance with statutory requirements. All staff receive child protection training at regular intervals.

Everyone in children's services share an objective to help keep children and young people safe by contributing to our aims:

- Preventing unsuitable people working with children
- Promoting safe practice and challenging poor and unsafe practice
- Providing a safe environment where pupils feel safe, are encouraged to talk and are listened to
- Ensuring that children who are vulnerable, at risk and are likely to suffer harm are identified and appropriate action is taken to keep them safe both at home, at school and in the neighbourhood or community
- Identifying, and recording accurately, instances in which there are grounds for concern about a child's welfare, and initiating or taking appropriate action to keep them safe
- Contributing to effective partnership working with all those involved with providing services for children and sharing concerns sensitively and honestly with parents/ carers, with due regard to confidentiality, whilst ensuring that parents/carers are aware of our responsibilities

Fuller guidance is available to all staff.

YB

March 2009
(replaces January 2007/April 2006 statement)