Safeguarding: What you need to know...

SOUTH & CITY COLLEGE BIRMINGHAM

Safeguarding and promoting the welfare of students is everyone's responsibility. Everyone who comes into contact with students and their families has a role to play.

All staff should have an awareness of safeguarding issues that can put students at risk of harm.

What is safeguarding?

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

Staff are particularly important

They are in a position to identify concerns early, provide help for students, promote students' welfare and prevent concerns from escalating.

All staff should be prepared to identify students who may benefit from early help.

Early help means providing support as soon as a problem emerges at any point in a child's life, from the foundation years through to the teenage years.

Mental health

All staff should be aware that mental health problems can, in some cases, be an indicator that a child has suffered or is at risk of suffering abuse, neglect or exploitation.

Heading here?

Staff should never promise a child that they will not tell anyone about a report of any form of abuse, as this may ultimately not be in the best interests of the child.

4 types of abuse:

- Physical
- Emotional
- Sexual
- Neglect

Information sharing

Early information sharing is vital. The expectation is that staff share concerns as soon as possible regardless of whether the child has a social worker or not. In some cases, particularly where students have social workers there may be a delay in passing over information that, if there was no social worker allocated, would be passed over sooner as a more significant concern.

REMEMBER!

Staff working with students are advised to maintain an attitude of "it could happen here" where safeguarding is concerned. When concerned about the welfare of a child, staff should always act in the best interests of the child.

Child on child abuse

All staff should be aware that students can abuse other students and that it can happen both inside and outside of school and online. It Is essential that all staff understand the importance of challenging inappropriate behaviours between students that are abusive in nature. Downplaying certain behaviours, for example dismissing sexual harassment as "just banter", or "just having a laugh", "part of growing up" or "boys being boys" can lead to a culture of unacceptable behaviours. Child on child behaviour is most likely to include:

- Bullying
- Abuse in intimate personal relationships between students
- Physical abuse such as hitting, kicking, shaking, biting, hair pulling or otherwise causing physical harm (this may include an online element which facilitates, threatens and/or encourages physical abuse)
- Sexual violence, such as rape, assault by penetration and sexual assault
- Sexual harassment, such as sexual comments, remarks, jokes and online sexual harassment
- Causing someone to engage in sexual activity without consent, such as forcing someone to strip, touch themselves sexually, or to engage in sexual activity with a third party
- Consensual and non-consensual sharing of nude and semi-nude images and/or videos
- Upskirting, which typically involves taking a picture under a person's clothing without their permission, with the intention of viewing their genitals or buttocks to obtain sexual gratification, or cause the victim humiliation, distress or alarm and
- initiation/hazing type violence and rituals (this could include activities involving harassment, abuse or humiliation used as a way of initiating a person into a group and may also include an online element).

Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE) & Child Criminal Exploitation (CCE)

These are forms of abuse that occur where on individual or group takes advantage of an imbalance in power to coerce, manipulate or deceive a child into taking part in sexual or criminal activity, in exchange for something the victim needs or wants, and/or for the financial advantage or increased status of the perpetrator or facilitator and/or through violence or the threat of violence.

Female Genital Mutilation (FGM)

There is a specific legal duty on teachers. If a teacher, in the course of their work in the profession, discovers that an act of FGM appears to have been carried out on a girl under the age of 18, the teacher must, report this to the police.

Online abuse

All staff should be aware that technology is a significant component in many safeguarding and wellbeing issues. Students are at risk of abuse and other risks online as well as face to face. In many cases abuse and other risks will take place concurrently both online and offline. Students can also abuse other students online, this can take the form of abusive, harassing and misogynistic/misandrist messages, the non-consensual sharing of indecent images, especially around chat groups, and the sharing of abusive images and pornography to those who do not want to receive such content.

If you have a concern around bullying, sexual harassment or anything else, you can report it to any member of staff who will support you.

If you prefer to report this anonymously please scan this QR code: