

Safeguarding Policy



King Henry VIII 3-19 School Ysgol 3-19 Brenin Harri'r VIII

We believe in the limitless capacity for everyone to achieve great things.

Effective from: September 2023

Approved by Governors: March 2023

Reviewed by Governors: March 2024

Reviewed by Governors: February 2025

Next Review Due: February 2026

Introduction

1.1 King Henry VIII 3-19 School is committed to ensuring that our community is safe and protected. The school fully recognises its statutory duty to safeguard and protect children and young people.

There are three main elements to our policy:-

- a) Prevention through the culture, teaching and pastoral support offered to children and young people.
- b) Procedures for identifying and reporting cases, or suspected cases, of abuse – because of our day-to-day contact with children and young people, our staff are well placed to observe the outward signs of abuse.
- c) Support to children and young people who may have experienced abuse or harm.

1.2 This policy applies to all staff and volunteers working in King Henry VIII 3-19 School and Governors. Teaching Assistants, HLTAs assistants, breakfast and lunchtime supervisors, caretakers, administrative staff, volunteers as well as teachers can be the first point of disclosure for a child and young person. This first point of contact is an important part of the safeguarding process and it is essential that all staff, volunteers, and Governors are aware of and implement the procedures as noted in this policy.

Prevention

2.1 We recognise that high self-esteem, confidence, supportive friends, and good lines of communication with a trusted adult help to safeguard children and young people at King Henry VIII 3-19 School.

We will therefore:-

- a) establish and maintain an ethos where children and young people feel secure, are encouraged to talk, share their concerns and are listened to;
- b) ensure that children and young people know that all staff and volunteers in this setting can be approached if they are worried or in difficulty.
- c) include in the curriculum, activities and opportunities for Relationships and Sexuality Education which equip children and young people with the skills they need to stay safe from abuse and to know to whom to turn for help. Key staff have received NSPCC PANTS and Brook Traffic Light Tool training to intervene effectively with concerns raised around sexual behaviours.

- d) include in the curriculum material that will help children and young people develop realistic attitudes to the responsibilities of adult life, particularly with regard to childcare and parenting skills
- e) build relationships with other agencies and ensure early and appropriate referrals for support and intervention are made before risks escalate
- f) include in the ethos of the setting that people have the right to be safe from abuse and to know who they can turn to for help;
- g) take a whole-school (setting) approach to well-being which will incorporate safeguarding and preventative measures to support children and families
- h) Undertake a regular SAFE audit of school safeguarding practices and share this with the Lead Officer for Safeguarding in Education at Monmouthshire County Council.

Procedures

3.1 At King Henry VIII 3-19 School we will follow the Wales Safeguarding Procedures, and other guidance and protocols that have been endorsed and agreed by the Gwent Safeguarding Board (GSB).

3.2 The school will: -

- a) Ensure it has a named DSP for safeguarding who has undertaken the appropriate training in line with agreed national and local requirements. This school will also nominate a named deputy who will be the central contact at times when the DSP is absent/not on site.
- b) Recognise the role of the DSP and arrange support and training.
- c) Ensure that all members of staff, including permanent, part time and adult volunteers, (and school Governors) know:-
 - o the name of the DSP (and those who deputise) and their role, the local authority point of contact and the designated governor for safeguarding
 - o that they have an individual responsibility for reporting children at risk and protection concerns to social services, or to the police, within the timescales agreed with the Regional Safeguarding Board
 - o how to take forward those concerns when the DSP or Deputy DSP is unavailable
 - o that the DSP and deputy will seek advice from the Lead Officer for Safeguarding in Education and/or Social Services Duty Team if necessary when a referral/safeguarding report is being considered; if in doubt a referral/safeguarding report must be sent.

- d) Ensure that all members of staff are aware of the need to be alert to signs of abuse and know how to respond to a learner who may disclose abuse or neglect.
- e) Ensure that members of staff who are EWC registrants are aware of the Code of Professional Conduct and Practice for registrants with the Education Workforce Council and the expectation within the Code that the registrant has regard to the safety and well-being of learners in their care and related content
- f) Ensure that parents/carers understand the responsibility placed on the school and staff for safeguarding and child protection by setting out its obligations in the school brochure. Parents and carers can report safeguarding concerns about an adult or child in our community through our Online Reporting Platform.
- g) Ensure that the school follows Safer Recruitment Processes
- h) Provide training for all staff so that they:
 - o Understand their personal responsibility;
 - o Are cognisant of agreed local procedures and their duty to respond
 - o Understand the need to be vigilant in identifying suspected cases of abuse and neglect
 - o Know how to support a child and young person who discloses abuse or neglect
 - o Understand the role online behaviours may have in each of the above
 - o Notify the local authority's Children's Services team if: – a child or young person on the child protection register is excluded, either for a fixed term or permanently – there is an unexplained absence of a learner on the child protection register of more than two days' duration from school (or one day following a weekend)
 - o Work to develop effective links with relevant agencies and co-operate as required with their enquiries regarding children and young people at risk including attendance at child protection conferences, core groups and subsequent meetings and support these with the submission of written reports.
 - o Keep written records of concerns about children and young people via MyConcern, even where there is no need to immediately refer the matter to agencies responsible for formal investigation. MyConcern is our secure, cloud-based electronic programme for recording safeguarding concerns.
 - o Ensure that all records and files are kept secure and in locked locations. The DSP is responsible for the security, compilation and storage of all records and should be able to access and produce them in times of need. It

is the responsibility of the DSP to ensure that any transfer of records is conducted sensitively and securely.

- Adhere to the procedures set out in the Welsh Government's Disciplinary and dismissal procedures for school staff: Revised guidance for governing bodies
- Ensure that recruitment and selection procedures are made in accordance with Welsh Government's Keeping learners safe guidance, national and local guidance. The school will seek advice and guidance from the appropriate Human Resources on recruitment and selection.
- Designate a Governor for safeguarding who will oversee the school's safeguarding policy and practice. This Governor will feed back to the Governing body on safeguarding matters as and when required but will be required to write an annual report to the governing body on the school's safeguarding activities.

Supporting children at risk

4.1 At King Henry VIII 3-19 School we recognise that those who are at risk, suffer abuse or witness violence are often affected in adverse ways, some may be deeply affected by this. This school setting may be the only stable, secure, and predictable element in the lives of children at risk. Nevertheless, when at the school their behaviour may be challenging and defiant or they may be withdrawn. The school will endeavour to support the children and young people through:

- a) the content of the curriculum to encourage self-esteem and self-motivation
- b) the school ethos which promotes a positive, supportive, and secure environment and gives learners a sense of being valued (see section on Prevention)
- c) the Relationships and Behaviour policy, which is aimed at supporting vulnerable pupils in the school. All staff will agree on a consistent approach that focuses on the behavioural outcome of the child or young person but does not damage the individual's sense of self-worth. The school setting will endeavour to ensure that the child and young person knows that some behaviour is unacceptable but that they are valued and not to be blamed for any abuse which has occurred
- d) liaison with other agencies who support the child or young person such as local authority officers – for example the educational psychology service, behaviour support services or the Education Welfare Service – child and adolescent mental health services, and advocacy services
- e) keeping records and notifying the local authority as soon as there is a recurrence of a concern.

4.2 When a child or young person on the Child Protection register leaves, we will transfer information to the new provider immediately and inform social services.

4.3 At King Henry 3-19 School we will endeavour to be patient and supportive to those at risk of harm or abuse.

4.4 Prevent Duties

In March 2015, the Counter Terrorism and Security Act received Royal Assent. The Act includes how we need to work together to prevent people from being drawn into terrorism.

Where we become aware of information involving identification of potential instances of extremism and radicalisation, we will refer to Adult/Children's Services in the same way as for all safeguarding concerns, as well as considering a Prevent referral.

4.5 Preventing and challenging bullying

Our policy on the prevention of and challenging bullying is set out in a separate policy and is reviewed by the governing body.

There are a range of Welsh Government guidance documents which underpin our approach:

[Rights, respect, equality: guidance for parents and carers](#)

Guidance to help parents and carers deal with bullying.

[Rights, respect, equality: guidance for schools](#)

Guidance to help schools deal with bullying.

[Rights, respect, equality: guidance for local authorities](#)

Guidance to help local authorities deal with bullying.

[Rights, respect, equality: guide for young people](#)

Guidance to help young people deal with bullying.

[Rights, respect, equality: guide for children](#)

Guidance to help children deal with bullying.

[Bullying: posters for children and young people](#)

An update on the revised statutory anti-bullying guidance.

[Bullying at school: guidance for parents and carers](#)

What to do if your child is being bullied.

4.6 Physical intervention and support

Our policy on physical intervention is set out in a separate document and is reviewed by the governing body, and is consistent with the Welsh Government's guidance Safe and effective intervention – use of reasonable force and searching for weapons.

4.7 Children with additional learning needs

We recognise that statistically children and young people with additional learning needs are most at risk of abuse. Staff who work with children and young people with an additional learning need, such as a profound and multiple disability, sensory impairment, neurodiversity, or emotional and behavioural challenges, need to be particularly sensitive to signs of abuse.

4.8 Operation Encompass

Operation Encompass was launched across Monmouthshire schools on 4th March 2019 as part of a Gwent wide initiative to address limitations in the early sharing of information between Police and schools. Its aim is to safeguard children and young people who are affected by domestic abuse, by ensuring that appropriate services are made aware of an incident at the earliest possible opportunity.

This school fully supports Operation Encompass the purpose of which is to safeguard and support those children and young people who have witnessed and/or been present at the time of a domestic abuse incident.

Following such an incident taking place, children and young people will often arrive at school distressed and unprepared. Operation Encompass aims to ensure that appropriate school staff are made aware at the earliest possible stage in order to provide relevant and tailored support to children and young people in a way that means that they feel safe and included.

All information will be managed sensitively, and only staff who need to be made aware will know about the concern.

4.9 Physical punishment of children

Since 21st March 2022 all physical punishment of children is illegal in Wales. Children now have the same protection from assault as adults.

Any concerns for children around physical punishment will be managed as per our legal duty to report safeguarding concerns.

Information, advice and support is available for anyone who needs it, to help them find positive ways to manage children's behaviour and to help avoid such a situation ever happening.

[Information for parents Parenting. Give it time](#) offers positive parenting practical hints, tips, and expert advice to encourage good behaviour from children and alternatives to physical punishment.

Their [parenting support page](#) offers links to further support and helplines.

Universal parenting support and advice is provided by midwives, health visitors, GPs, and your local authority.

Early help programmes such as [Flying Start](#) (if you live in a Flying Start area) and [Families First](#) can also offer advice and support.

Information for all staff and volunteers

5.1 What to do if a child or young person tells you they have been abused or harmed

A child or young person may confide in any member of staff or volunteer. Staff to whom an allegation is made should remember:

- a) Yours is a listening role, do not interrupt the learner when they are freely recalling events. Limit any questions to clarifying your understanding of what they are saying. Any questions should be framed in an open manner so not to lead them;
- b) You must report orally to the Designated Safeguarding Person (DSP) or their Deputy in their absence immediately to inform them of what has been disclosed. In the unlikelihood of both being absent seek out the most senior person in the school;
- c) Make a note of the discussion, as soon as is reasonably practical (but within 24 hours) to pass on to the DSP. The note which should be clear in its use of terminology should record the time, date, place, and people who were present and should record the child/young person's answers/responses in exactly the way they were said as far as possible. This note will in most cases be the only written record of what has been disclosed and as it records the initial disclosure from the person it is an important one in the safeguarding process.
- d) Remember, your note of the discussion may be used in any subsequent formal investigation and or court proceedings. It is therefore essential that the information taken is transferred to MyConcern, after you have spoken to the DSP.
- e) Do not give undertakings of absolute confidentiality. (See note following this section for more details) You will need to express this in age/understanding related ways to the child or young person as soon as appropriately possible during the disclosure. This may result in the child or young person 'clamming up' and not completing the disclosure, but you will still be required to share the fact that they

have a shared a concern with you to the DSP. Often what is initially shared can be the tip of an iceberg;

- f) Your responsibility in terms of referring concerns ends at this point, but you may have a future role in terms of supporting the child or young person, contributing to an assessment or supporting safeguarding plans. You can ask the designated person for an update but they are restricted by procedures and confidentiality and may be limited in their response. The level of feedback will be on a need to know basis, but whatever is shared is strictly confidential and not for general discussion with others.

5.2 If an allegation of abuse is made against a member of staff/volunteer this must be reported to the DSP. Where an allegation is against a member of staff it will be reported to Children's/Adult Services in the same way as for all allegations of abuse.

5.3 If an allegation is made against the Headteacher, you must report this to the Chair of Governors, and advice must be sought from the Lead Officer for Safeguarding in Education or Children's Services if they cannot be reached.

5.4 The Headteacher and DSP will have read and fully understood the Welsh Government Guidance: Circular No: 009/2014 - Safeguarding Children in Education - Handling allegations of abuse against teachers & other staff.

5.5 This Safeguarding Policy links seamlessly with the Whistleblowing Policy which says that if your concern is a safeguarding concern about a child or adult at risk (rather than about potential malpractice), this should be reported to Monmouthshire Children's Services or Adult Services respectively. This is via normal Child Protection /Protection of Vulnerable Adults (POVA) processes.

Confidentiality

6.1 A child or young person may only feel confident to confide in a member of staff/volunteer if they feel that the information will not be divulged to anyone else. However, we all have a responsibility to share relevant information about safeguarding children and young people with the designated statutory agencies when a person is experiencing harm or abuse.

6.2 It is important that each member of staff and volunteer deals with this sensitively and explains to the child or young person that they must inform the appropriate people who can help them, but they will only tell those who need to know in order to be able to help. Staff should reassure the child or young person and tell them that their situation will not be common knowledge within the school (i.e. not discussed with other staff). Staff and volunteers need to be aware that it may well have taken significant courage on the part of the child or young person to disclose the information and they may also be experiencing conflicting emotions, involving feelings of guilt, embarrassment, disloyalty (if the abuser is someone close) and hurt.

6.3 If possible and appropriate, the school will gain consent from parents and carers to pass on a concern to relevant agencies. There are however times when this would not be appropriate, for example when a concern relates to a parent or carer, or where sharing a concern with a parent or carer could jeopardise a police investigation. Under the GDPR and Data Protection Act 2018, the school may share information with other agencies without consent, if, in the school's judgment, there is a lawful basis to do so, such as where safety may be at risk.

Training

7.1 The school will be cognisant of national and local training requirements and guidance, which will include GSB guidance, advice, and training opportunities.

7.2 The school will ensure that the Designated Safeguarding Person (DSP) will have received initial training when starting their role and continued professional updates as required. Specific updates as suggested by national and local requirements will be central to the DSP's development. The designated deputy will be initially supported by the designated person and consideration for joint opportunities for training with the DSP will be given.

7.3 All staff and volunteers will be regularly updated during the year as appropriate from the designated lead but will receive specific awareness raising training within a 2-year period.

Peer on Peer Abuse

8.1 Peer-on-peer sexual harassment in education settings has been discussed, researched, and reported on for decades. However, recent years have witnessed a significant growth in knowledge and awareness around the issue. In Wales, the matter has been prominently highlighted in two Estyn reports, addressing the problem of peer-on-peer harassment within schools (2021), and amongst 16 to 18-year-old learners in further education (2023). Peer-on-peer abuse is defined as any form of physical, sexual, emotional and financial abuse, and coercive control, exercised between children and within children's relationships (Firmin, C. 2017. Abuse Between Young People: A Contextual Account).

8.2 The definition of sexual harassment is unwanted conduct of a sexual nature (Sexual Violence and Sexual Harassment Between Children in Schools and Schools, DfE, May 2018)

8.3 The definition of harmful sexual behaviour is developmentally inappropriate sexual behaviour which is displayed by children and young people, and which may be harmful or abusive (Hackett, S. (2014) Children and young people with harmful sexual behaviours. London: Research in Practice)

8.4 The school has a clear action plan to address the above issues that brings together universal, targeted and specialist provision and support.

Key personnel

The Designated Safeguarding Person at this school are:

Jake Parkinson

The Deputy Designated Safeguarding Persons at this school are:

Jo Mayo, Judith Davies, Samantha Watkins and Jill Phillips

Parents and carers can report safeguarding concerns about an adult or child in our community through our [Online Reporting Platform](#).

The Safeguarding Link Governor is: Mrs Suzanne Williams

The Lead Officer for Safeguarding in Education for Monmouthshire County Council is:-

Heather Heaney

Phone: 01633 644392

Email; HeatherHeaney@monmouthshire.gov.uk

Monmouthshire Children's Services can be contacted as follows:-

Phone: 01291 635669

Out of hours telephone number: 0800 328 4432

Monmouthshire Adult Services can be contacted as follows:-

Phone: 01873 735492

Out of hours telephone number: 0800 328 4432

In an emergency, please call 999 to report a vulnerable adult at risk

- a) Monday – Friday 9am to 5pm we operate a duty service in each locality.
- b) If you are reporting an adult at risk who lives in South Monmouthshire, you can speak to someone on telephone number 01291 635666.
- c) If you are reporting an adult at risk who lives in Abergavenny area, you can speak to someone on telephone number 01873 735885.
- d) If you are reporting an adult at risk who lives in Monmouth area, you can speak to someone on telephone number 01600 775100.
- e) Outside of office hours you can contact the Adult Services Emergency Duty Team on 0800 3284432.