



King's Academy College Park

A King's Group Academy

An adult's guide to Safeguarding at King's Academy College Park

Updated April 2023



023 9266 3645

Our Designated Safeguarding Leads are:



Mrs Carlyle
Head Teacher
DSL



Mrs Childs
Deputy DSL



Miss Pincombe
SENCO
Deputy DSL

Our safeguarding responsibilities:

Safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children is everyone's responsibility. Everyone who comes into contact with children has an important role to play.

School and staff are particularly important as they are in a position to identify concerns early, provide help for children, promote children's welfare and prevent concerns from escalating. It is important all staff (including those who do not work directly with children) recognise the important role they play in protecting children.

For the purposes of safeguarding, a child is anyone under the age of 18.

Safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children is defined as:

- protecting children from maltreatment
- preventing impairment of children's mental and physical health or development
- ensuring that children grow up in circumstances consistent with the provision of safe and effective care, and
- taking action to enable all children to have the best outcomes.

If a child discloses they are being abused or neglected, we will:

- Never promise a child that you will not tell anyone else about a report of abuse, as this is unlikely to be in the best interests of the child.
- Reassure all victims that they are being taken seriously and that they will be supported and kept safe. A victim should never be given the impression that they are creating a problem by reporting abuse, sexual violence or sexual harassment, nor should a victim ever be made to feel ashamed for making a report.
- Be aware that technology is a significant component in many safeguarding and wellbeing issues. Children 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. Children can also abuse other children 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.

Abuse and neglect.

Knowing what to look for is vital to the early identification of abuse and neglect. All staff are aware of indicators of abuse and neglect, including exploitation, so that they are able to identify cases of children who may be in need of help or protection. Abuse can take place wholly online, or technology may be used to facilitate offline abuse.

If staff are unsure, they will always speak to the designated safeguarding lead (or deputy).

Forms of abuse and neglect.

Abuse: a form of maltreatment of a child. Somebody may abuse or neglect a child by inflicting harm or by failing to act to prevent harm. Children may be abused by other children or adults, in a family or in an institutional or community setting by those known to them or, more rarely, by others.

Forms of abuse and neglect are: Physical, Emotional, Sexual and Neglect.

Sexual abuse can take place online, and technology can be used to facilitate offline abuse. Sexual abuse is not solely perpetrated by adult males. Females can also be abusers as can other children. The sexual abuse of children by other children is a specific safeguarding issue (also known as child-on-child abuse) in education and all staff should be aware of it and their school or colleges policy and procedures for dealing with it.

All staff are aware that child sexual and child criminal exploitation are forms of child abuse.

All staff have an awareness of safeguarding issues that can put children at risk of harm. Behaviours linked to issues such as drug taking and/or alcohol misuse, deliberately missing education, serious violence (including that linked to county lines), radicalisation and consensual and non-consensual sharing of nude and semi-nude images and/or videos (also known as youth produced sexual imagery) put children in danger.

Consensual image sharing, especially between older children of the same age, may require a different response. It might not be abusive – but children still need to know it is illegal- whilst non-consensual is illegal and abusive. UKCIS provides detailed advice about sharing of nudes and semi-nude images and videos.

Child-on-child abuse

All staff should be aware that children can abuse other children at any age (often referred to as child-on-child abuse) and that it can happen both inside and outside of school and online. It is important that all staff recognise the indicators and signs of abuse and know how to identify it and respond to reports.

Child-on-child abuse is most likely to include, but may not be limited to:

- bullying (including cyberbullying, prejudice-based and discriminatory bullying)

- abuse in intimate personal relationships between children (sometimes known as ‘teenage relationship abuse’)
- physical abuse which can include hitting, kicking, shaking, biting, hair pulling, or otherwise causing physical harm
- sexual violence
- sexual harassment (including online)

Staff working with children at King’s Academy College Park always maintain an attitude of ‘it could happen here’ where safeguarding is concerned. When concerned about the welfare of a child, staff will always act in the best interest of the child. They will not assume a colleague or another professional will take action and share information that might be critical in keeping children safe.

If staff have any concerns about a child’s welfare, they know to act on them immediately and all staff are aware of the school procedures in doing so. These can be found on our website in our Child Protection and Safeguarding Policy.

Why is all of this important?

It is important for children to receive the right help at the right time to address safeguarding risks and prevent issues escalating and to promote children’s welfare.

If you have concerns about a child, anyone can make a direct referral to any of the following agencies:

Multi Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH): 023 9268 8793

Police: 101 or 999

Social Care: 023 9283 9111

Social Care Out of Hours: 0845 6004555

Rebecca Paradise - Portsmouth Local Authority Designated Officer (LADO): 02392 882500

