



CHILD PROTECTION POLICY

City of London School (CLS)
City of London School for Girls (CLSG)

Statement:

We 'The School' are committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people and expect all Staff and Volunteers to share this commitment.

1.0 Introduction

- 1.1 This policy has been prepared in accordance with the requirements of:
 - 1.1.1 relevant legislation, including the Children Act 2004, the Education Act 2002, and the Education (Independent School Standards) (England) Regulations 2010;
 - 1.1.2 relevant guidance issued by HM Government, including "*What to do if You are Worried a Child is Being Abused*" 2003, "*Safeguarding Children and Safer Recruitment in Education*" January 2007, "*Guidance for Safer Working Practice for Adults who Work with Children and Young People in Education Settings*" March 2009, and "*Working Together to Safeguard Children*" 2010;
 - 1.1.3 other relevant standards and guidance including guidance issued by the Independent Schools Inspectorate entitled – "*Handbook for the Inspection of Schools, The Regulatory Requirements*" (effective from September 2010); and
 - 1.1.4 relevant Local Safeguarding Children Board (LSCB) Procedures.
- 1.2 This policy has been prepared in consultation with the Children's Services Department from the City of London, the relevant local authority. (See Appendix for contact details which may be updated from time-to-time as necessary to reflect changes in personnel.)
- 1.3 The Governing Body, on behalf of the City of London as Proprietor of the School, takes seriously its responsibility under section 157 of the

Education Act 2002 to safeguard and promote the welfare of children; and to work together with other agencies to ensure adequate arrangements within the School to identify, assess, and support those children where there are concerns about a child's safety and welfare.

- 1.4 We recognise that all adults, including Staff and Governors, have a full and active part to play in protecting pupils from harm, and that the child's welfare is our paramount concern. Wherever the word "Staff" is used, it covers ALL staff on site, including temporary and support staff, and volunteers working with children.
- 1.5 The School, through its Governors and Staff, is committed to providing a caring, positive safe and stimulating environment that promotes the social, physical and moral development of the individual child.
- 1.6 The aims of this policy are:
 - 1.6.1 To support each child's development in ways that will foster awareness, understanding, security, confidence, resilience and independence.
 - 1.6.2 To provide an environment in which all children and young people feel safe, secure, valued and respected, and also feel confident to approach adults if they are in difficulties believing they will be effectively listened to.
 - 1.6.3 To raise the awareness of all Staff of the need to safeguard children and of their responsibilities in identifying and reporting possible cases, or suspected cases, of abuse.
 - 1.6.4 To provide a systematic means of monitoring children known or thought to be at risk of harm, and ensure we, the School, contribute to assessments of need and support packages for those children.
 - 1.6.5 To emphasise the need for good levels of communication between all members of Staff.
 - 1.6.6 To develop a structured procedure within the School, which will be followed by all members of the School community in cases of alleged or suspected neglect, abuse and/or any other child welfare concern.
 - 1.6.7 To develop and promote effective working relationships with other agencies, especially the Police and Social Services.
 - 1.6.8 To ensure that all adults within the School who have substantial access to children have been checked as to their suitability.
- 1.7 Should any deficiencies or weaknesses in child protection arrangements become apparent, the arrangements will be remedied without delay.

2.0 Procedures

- 2.1 Our school procedures for safeguarding children have been prepared in accordance with relevant legislation, guidance and LSCB Procedures. We will ensure that:
 - 2.1.1 Arrangements are in place at the School to deal with allegations of abuse, or suspected abuse, which will be referred to the Local Authority Children's Services Representative (LACSR) and the School will engage with other statutory agencies, as necessary, to provide inter-agency support to the child concerned.
 - 2.1.2 All members of the Governing Body understand and fulfil their responsibilities and are provided with a copy of this policy upon their appointment to the Governing Body. There is one nominated Governor who is responsible for child protection and who has skills commensurate for this role. Relevant training will be provided for Governors.
 - 2.1.3 We have a designated senior member of staff, our Child Protection Liaison Officer (CPLO), who has undertaken relevant child protection training delivered through the local LSCB representative.
 - 2.1.4 We have an additional member of Staff who will act in place of the designated CPLO when absent, and will receive relevant child protection training.
 - 2.1.5 All members of Staff are provided with relevant Child Protection Awareness information, as provided by the Proprietor and/or Local Authority, to develop their understanding of the signs and indicators of abuse, along with individual responsibilities to respond to any child welfare concerns in accordance with the School's child protection procedures. In particular all Staff understand the need to avoid asking leading questions of children when a child protection matter is brought to the Staff members' attention.
 - 2.1.6 All members of Staff and Governors are advised on how to respond to 'Disclosures of Abuse' through relevant training. In particular training will ensure that they understand the need to: consider measures that may be necessary to protect individual pupils; avoid asking leading questions of pupils; avoid giving inappropriate guarantees of confidentiality; make and keep written records; and report the matter to the CPLO.
 - 2.1.7 Safe recruitment practices are always followed through rigorous recruitment process and procedures for Staff, striking a balance between the need to protect children from abuse and the need to protect Staff from false or unfounded allegations. Our selection and recruitment of staff includes checks for their suitability with the Independent Safeguarding Authority (ISA) and the Criminal Records Bureau (CRB).

These checks will also be carried out on Staff with a break in service of more than 3 months or where Staff have, since their initial appointment to a position not requiring a Disclosure, moved to work that involves significantly greater responsibility for children. In accordance with procedures adopted by the City of London, CRB checks are also carried out on all new Governors at the School.

- 2.1.8 Where we have grounds for believing that a member of Staff may be unsuitable to work with children that this is notified to the appropriate bodies including the ISA. The School will, within one month, report to the ISA anyone whose services are no longer used, whether because the School has removed them from work with children or the person has chosen to cease work, and there are grounds to believe he or she is unsuitable to work with children.
- 2.1.9 All parents/carers are made aware of the responsibilities of staff members with regard to child protection procedures through publication of the School's Child Protection Policy on the School website, and reference to it in our introductory School pack. The Policy is also available upon request to the School.
- 2.1.10 Written assurance is obtained that appropriate child protection checks and procedures apply to any staff employed by another organisation and working with the school's pupils on another site.
- 2.1.11 Our lettings policy will seek to ensure the suitability of adults working with children on School sites at any time.
- 2.1.12 Community users organising activities for children are aware of the School's child protection guidelines and procedures.
- 2.1.13 Where appropriate, senior pupils given positions of responsibility over other pupils will be briefed on appropriate action to take should they receive any allegations of abuse.
- 2.2 Our procedures will be reviewed annually by the Board of Governors. The review will also include a review of the efficiency with which the related duties have been discharged.
- 2.3 The name of the CPLO will be clearly advertised in the School, with a statement explaining the School's role in referring and monitoring cases of suspected abuse and/or risk to a child.
- 2.4 All new members of Staff will be given a copy of our Child Protection policy, and the procedures "What to do if You're Worried a Child is Being Abused", with the CPLO's name clearly displayed, as part of their induction into the School.

3.0 Responsibilities

- 3.1 The CPLO is responsible for:
 - 3.1.1 Referring a child to the LACSR whenever an allegation or disclosure of abuse has been made or if there are concerns about possible abuse, and acting as a focal point for staff to discuss concerns. All referrals will be carried out in accordance with LSCB procedures.
 - 3.1.2 Keeping written records of concerns about a child even if there is no need to make an immediate referral.
 - 3.1.3 Ensuring that all such records are kept confidentially and securely in accordance with the Data Protection Act 1998 and are kept separate from pupil records.
 - 3.1.4 Ensuring that an indication of further record-keeping is marked on the pupil records.
 - 3.1.5 Liaising with other agencies and professionals and ensuring that contact with the relevant welfare agency will be made as soon as possible, but in any event within 24 hours, upon the disclosure or suspicion of abuse. The referral shall be made in writing or with written confirmation of a telephone referral.
 - 3.1.6 Ensuring their attendance at case conferences, core groups, or other multi-agency planning meetings, and otherwise co-operates with the LACSR and other agencies to support inter-agency working.
 - 3.1.7 Ensuring that any pupil currently on the child protection register who is absent without explanation for two days is referred to the LACSR.
 - 3.1.8 Undertaking training in child protection, including training in inter-agency working that is provided by, or to standards set by, the LSCB, and undertaking refresher training at two yearly intervals to keep his or her knowledge and skills up to date.
 - 3.1.9 Organising child protection training for all school Staff and Governors and arranging refresher training for the Head teacher and all other Staff at three yearly intervals.
 - 3.1.10 Providing, with the Head and in consultation with the Town Clerk, an annual report for the Board of Governors, detailing - any changes to the policy and procedures; training undertaken by the CPLO, by all Staff and by Governors; the number and type of incidents/cases; and the number of children on the child protection register (anonymised).

4.0 Supporting Children

- 4.1 We recognise that a child who is abused or witnesses violence may feel helpless and humiliated, may blame themselves and find it difficult to develop and maintain a sense of self worth.
- 4.2 We recognise that the School may provide the only stability in the lives of children who have been abused or who are at risk of harm.
- 4.3 We accept that research shows that the behaviour of a child in these circumstances may range from that which is perceived to be normal to aggressive or withdrawn.
- 4.4 The School will support all pupils by:
 - 4.4.1 Encouraging self-esteem and self-assertiveness, through the curriculum as well as our relationships, whilst attempting to counteract aggression and bullying.
 - 4.4.2 Promoting a caring, safe and positive environment within the School.
 - 4.4.3 Liaising and working together with all other support services and those agencies involved in the safeguarding of children.
 - 4.4.4 Notifying the child's **home area LACSR** as soon as there is a significant concern.
 - 4.4.5 Providing continued support to school leavers identified as potentially at risk of abuse, by ensuring that appropriate information is forwarded under confidential cover to the pupil's new school and ensuring relevant medical records are forwarded as a matter of priority.

5.0 Confidentiality

- 5.1 We recognise that all matters relating to child protection are confidential subject to overriding legal obligations to disclose information to ensure the safety and well-being of a child.
- 5.2 The Head or CPLO will disclose any information about a pupil to other members of Staff on a need to know basis only consistent with legal requirements, and in accordance with relevant guidance.
- 5.3 All Staff are made aware that they have a professional responsibility to share information with other agencies in order to safeguard children.
- 5.4 All Staff are made aware that they cannot promise a child to keep secrets which might compromise the child's safety or wellbeing.
- 5.5 We will always undertake to share our intention to refer a child to the LACSR with their parents/carers unless this could put the child at greater risk of harm, or impede a criminal investigation. If in doubt, we will consult with the LACSR on this point.

6.0 Supporting Staff

- 6.1 We recognise that Staff working in the School who have become involved with a child who has suffered harm, or appears to be likely to suffer harm, may find the situation stressful and upsetting.
- 6.2 We will support such Staff by providing an opportunity to talk through their anxieties with the CPLO and to seek further support as appropriate.

7.0 Dealing with Allegations of Abuse Against Staff

- 7.1 Procedures for dealing with allegation of abuse against Staff are carried out in accordance with HM Government Guidance: '*Safeguarding Children and Safer Recruitment in Education*', 2007. All Staff are made aware of this guidance, the School's procedures, and other local guidance relating to this issue.
- 7.2 All School Staff should take care not to place themselves in a vulnerable position with a child. It is always advisable for interviews or work with individual children or parents to be conducted in view of other adults.
- 7.3 We understand that a pupil may make an allegation against any member of Staff.
- 7.4 If such an allegation is made, the member of Staff receiving the allegation will immediately inform the Head and the CPLO. The Head on all such occasions will discuss the content of the allegation with the Town Clerk, any other relevant City Officer, and the Chairman of Governors where appropriate. The LACSR representative will also be promptly informed of any allegation. In the absence of the Head the allegation should be passed to the Chairman of Governors.
- 7.5 If an allegation is made against the Head, the person receiving the allegation will immediately inform the Chairman of Governors who will consult as in 7.4 above, without notifying the Head first.
- 7.6 An allegation of abuse will normally be referred to a Strategy Meeting, involving representatives from the School and the LACSR. A Strategy Meeting also covers any urgent formal strategy discussion which may take place between the Police, social care and education managers prior to the first meeting.
- 7.7 We will follow the City of London's Disciplinary Procedures when managing allegations against staff, a copy of which is readily available in the School. Disciplinary action will be considered in conjunction with discussions at the Strategy Meeting.
- 7.8 We would not normally send a child home, pending such an investigation, unless this advice is given exceptionally as a result of a Strategy Meeting.

- 7.9 Suspension of the member of Staff, excluding the Head, against whom an allegation has been made, needs careful consideration, and the Head will seek the advice from the Town Clerk, and any other relevant City Officer before deciding on the course of action to be taken.
- 7.10 In the event of an allegation against the Head, the decision to suspend will be made by the Chairman of Governors with advice as in 7.9 above.

8.0 Dealing with Allegations of Abuse by one or more Pupil/s Against another Pupil

- 8.1 Allegations of abuse by one or more pupil against another pupil are taken very seriously.
- 8.2 If such an allegation is made, the member of Staff receiving the allegation will immediately inform the Head and the CPLO. The Head on all such occasions will discuss the content of the allegation with the Town Clerk, any other relevant City Officer, and the Chairman of Governors where appropriate.
- 8.3 The LACSR representative will also be promptly informed of any allegation.
- 8.4 An allegation of abuse will normally be referred to a Strategy Meeting, involving representatives from the School and the LACSR. A Strategy Meeting also covers any urgent formal strategy discussion which may take place between the police, social care and education managers prior to the first meeting.
- 8.5 We would not normally send a child home, pending such an investigation, unless this advice is given exceptionally as a result of a Strategy Meeting.
- 8.6 Suspension of the pupil, against whom an allegation has been made, needs careful consideration, and the Head will seek the advice from the LACSR, and any other relevant City Officer, before deciding on the course of action to be taken.

9.0 Whistleblowing

- 9.1 We recognise that children cannot be expected to raise concerns in an environment where Staff fail to do so.
- 9.2 All Staff should be aware of their duty to raise concerns, where they exist, about the management of child protection, which may include the attitude or actions of colleagues. Staff can also utilise the City's 'Whistleblowing' facilities via the telephone hotline and/or website.

10.0 Physical Intervention

- 10.1 The School's policy on physical intervention by staff is set out in the Teachers Guide, and acknowledges that Staff must only ever use physical intervention as a last resort, when a child is endangering him/herself or others, and that at all times the physical interventions must be necessary and proportionate to the level or risk to the child and/or another person. Staff should always avoid touching or restraining a pupil in a way that could be interpreted as sexually inappropriate conduct.
- 10.2 Such an event should be recorded and signed by a witness should there be one. If there was no witness the CPLO must be informed immediately.
- 10.3 We understand that physical intervention of a nature which causes injury or distress to a child may be considered under child protection or disciplinary procedures.

11.0 Bullying

- 11.1 Our policy on bullying is set out in a separate document (The Anti-Bullying Policy) and acknowledges that to allow or condone bullying may lead to consideration under child protection procedures. This includes homophobic and gender related bullying.

12.0 Racist Incidents

- 12.1 The School adheres to the City of London's Equal Opportunities Policy. The School acknowledges that repeated racist incidents or a single serious incident may lead to consideration under child protection procedures.

13.0 Prevention

- 13.1 We recognise that the School plays a significant part in the prevention of harm to our pupils by providing pupils with good lines of communication with trusted adults, supportive friends and an ethos of protection.
- 13.2 The School community will therefore:
 - 13.2.1 Establish and maintain an ethos where children feel secure and are encouraged to talk and are always listened to.
 - 13.2.2 Ensure that all children know there is an adult in the School whom they can approach if they are worried or in difficulty.
 - 13.2.3 Incorporate into the curriculum, including PSHE, information and opportunities which equip children with the awareness and skills they need to stay safe from harm and to know to whom they should turn for help.

14.0 Health & Safety and Related School Policies & Procedures

14.1 Our Health & Safety policy, set out in a separate document, details the measures being taken by the School to promote the health and safety of all children and staff within the School's environs. Other aspects, such as the procedures for internet use and School trips are set out in this and/or other School policies.

15.0 Relevant Contacts

15.1 Relevant contact details for issues relating to child protection at the School can be found in the attached Appendix.

Revised January 2011

Approved by the Board of Governors

APPENDIX

City of London School

Address: Queen Victoria Street,
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Telephone: 020 7489 0291

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CPLO Gary Griffin (Second Master)

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City of London School for Girls

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Headmistress Diana Vernon

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