

St Vincent's School for Blind and Partially Sighted Children

Child Protection/Safeguarding Screening Document

Introduction:

This screening document is for use with volunteers, staff new to the school including supply staff and governors. It explains how St. Vincent's is an 'aware' school.

St. Vincent's School Child Protection: Summary

- ❖ School staff in regular contact with children and young people are in a position to get to know those individuals well, to develop trusting relationships, observe changes in behaviour and may be chosen by the young person to share confidence and concerns. Regrettably, there are occasions where child abuse is alleged or suspected. All such situations must be taken seriously.
- ❖ It is the policy of this school to safeguard the welfare of children and all others involved in the school's activities by protecting them from physical, sexual and emotional harm.
- ❖ It is the responsibility of each adult to ensure that his / her behaviour is appropriate at all times. A Code of Behaviour is included in this document to give positive guidance for all adults. It is essential that all adults follow the Code of Behaviour whether they work with children, young people or adults. Details of the steps to take if abuse is alleged or suspected are also included in this document, although more detailed Child Protection Guidelines are also available to all staff. It is important to remember that school staff are not investigating officers.
- ❖ If there is an allegation or suspicion of abuse then this must be reported immediately to the Child Protection Co-ordinator whose responsibility it is to refer to social services / police (who are the investigative agencies). At all times the welfare of the young person is paramount. Swift reporting will enable the investigative agency to give advice and take appropriate action.

- ❖ These procedures exist, not to discourage adults from being involved in the life of this school, but to ensure, as far as possible, that people who may abuse children do not get the opportunity to do so.

Complying with School Safeguarding/Child Protection Policy:

- ❖ All adults coming into contact with children and young people in this school/service must comply with the Safeguarding/Child Protection Policy and Code of Behaviour.
- ❖ As one such person, you are required to sign a copy of this document. By signing, you agree to comply with the policy and follow the Code of Behaviour. The form must be read, discussed, signed and handed to the Principal or other designated person before you take any duties in this establishment.
- ❖ In all matters of child protection, the welfare and safety of the child is the paramount consideration.

Procedure

If you suspect that a child / young person is being abused:

- ❖ Immediately tell the Child Protection Co-ordinator or Principal
- ❖ Record the known facts and give them to the above person.

If a child or young person tells you he / she are being abused:

1. Allow him/her to speak without interruption, accepting what is said;
2. Advise him/her that you will offer support, but that you **MUST** pass information on to the Child Protection Co-ordinator/Principal
3. Immediately tell the designated Child Protection Co-ordinator or Principal;
4. Record the facts as you know them, including the account given to you by the young person and give a copy to the designated Child Protection Co-ordinator or Principal.

If you receive an allegation about any adult or about yourself:

1. Immediately tell the Child Protection Co-ordinator or Principal
2. Record the facts as you know them and give a copy to the Child Protection Co-ordinator or Principal

You must refer. You must NOT investigate.

Code of Behaviour

- ❖ **Do** treat everyone with respect.
- ❖ **Do** provide an example you wish others to follow.
- ❖ **Do** plan activities so that they involve more than one person or at least are in sight or hearing of others.
- ❖ **Do** respect a young person's right to personal privacy.
- ❖ **Do** provide access for young people and adults to feel comfortable enough to point out attitudes or behaviours they do not like, and try to provide a caring atmosphere.
- ❖ **Do** remember that someone else might misinterpret your actions, no matter how well intentioned.
- ❖ **Do** act as an appropriate adult role model.
- ❖ **Do not** permit abusive youth/peer activities (e.g. bullying, ridiculing).
- ❖ **Do not** play physical contact games, make inappropriate comments, or have inappropriate verbal banter with young people.
- ❖ **Do not** jump to conclusions without checking facts.
- ❖ **Do not** make suggestive remarks/gestures or tell sexist/homophobic/racist 'jokes'.
- ❖ **Do not** rely on your good name to protect you. It may not be enough.
- ❖ **Do not** believe it could not happen to you. It could.

Every adult or other helper will be required to disclose all criminal convictions whether spent or not. Checks may be made on anyone who may or may not have already been the subject of vetting by this or any other organisation.

Name:
Date of Birth: Day: Month: Year:
Address:
Post Code:
Other names by which I may be / have been known:

Please delete as appropriate

- I have obtained a CRB Disclosure certificate which I have shown to the Principal or designated member of staff.
- I am willing to be checked against police and other records.
- I have not incurred any criminal convictions related to, nor have I committed any offences of abuse or causing harm to children and young people, or any other offence which may be relevant to the work which I may undertake in this school.
- I am not aware of any other investigations, which may have been held, or may currently be in progress, concerning my behaviour towards others.

I have read and understand this document, consent to the appropriate checks being made, and agree to adhere to the Safeguarding/Child Protection Policy and follow the Code of Behaviour.

Signed:
Date:
Signature of Principal/other appropriate officer:
Position held: