

At The West Sussex Alternative Provision College, we recognise that it is our statutory duty to safeguard and promote the welfare of our students and that they have a fundamental right to be protected from harm.

Although the school is not an investigative agency we have an important role in all aspects of the welfare of our students. With our day-to-day contact with our young people during school term time we are particularly well placed to observe outward signs of abuse, changes in behaviour and signs of failure to thrive.

The West Sussex Alternative Provision College is committed to implementing this Safeguarding Children Policy, which follows the guidelines of the Local Safeguarding Children Boards of Brighton and Hove, East Sussex and West Sussex.

We are committed to safe recruitment and selection procedures to ensure that all staff and volunteers have been appropriately screened prior to appointment, and to the provision of appropriate child protection training through the staff induction programme and within continuing professional development opportunities. We are committed to regular training in this important area.

THE GUIDING PRINCIPLES

Children's Rights

- ✦ Children have the right to protection from neglect, physical, emotional and sexual abuse. All citizens, as well as professionals, have a responsibility for the protection of children and for reporting concerns about a child's welfare or safety.

Putting Children First

- ✦ The wellbeing of the child is the paramount consideration in all protection work. In any conflict between the needs of the child and those of the parents/carers, the needs of the child must be put first.

Treating Children as Individuals

- ✦ Children must be listened to and taken seriously, whatever their level of development or communication.
- ✦ Children's wishes and feelings must be taken into account; children will be involved in decisions about their future in ways appropriate to their age and understanding.
- ✦ Work with children should be sensitive to the child as an individual with particular needs and circumstances.
- ✦ All children will be treated with respect and accorded full civil and legal rights.

Equality

Each child and family is unique with differing experiences, circumstances and perspectives.

- ✦ Professionals concerned with child protection investigations must make every effort to identify and ameliorate any disadvantage arising



from ethnic origin, culture, religion, language, gender, sexual orientation, class, disability or age.

- Particular attention should be paid to the vulnerability of children with a disability, special needs or communication difficulties.

Designated Members of Staff for Safeguarding Children

- The West Sussex Alternative Provision College has 8 Assistant Headteachers who act as Designated Teachers for Child Protection. They are available to provide advice, guidance and make decisions in respect of any child protection concerns.
- The West Sussex Alternative Provision College has 2 SENCo's who act as Designated Teachers for Child Protection. They are available to provide advice, guidance and make decisions in respect of any child protection concerns.
- As designated members of staff for child protection the 8 Assistant Headteachers and 2 SENCo's will have regular child protection training and will make sure that all staff and volunteers know how to recognise and report any concerns or indications that a child is or has been neglected or abused.
- The Headteacher of the West Sussex Alternative Provision College will report back to the Local Authority regarding the number, nature and outcomes of the referrals made.

Linked Policies & Procedures

- Child Protection Policy*
- Online Safety Policy*
- Acceptable Use Policy*
- Safer Recruitment Policy*
- Behaviour Policy*

