



St Mark's C of E Academy Policy

Policy Title	Child Protection (Safeguarding)	Version No	1
Rationale	St Mark's Academy believes that all students have the right to feel safe, both in the academy and with the people they interact with. The academy aims to support students' development in ways which will enable them to feel secure, confident and independent.		
Policy Statement	<p>St Mark's Academy fully recognises its responsibilities for child protection.</p> <p>Our policy applies to all staff, governors and volunteers working in the school. There are five main elements to our policy:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Ensuring we practice safe recruitment in checking the suitability of staff and volunteers to work with our young people.• Raising awareness of child protection issues and equipping students with the skills needed to keep them safe.• Developing and then implementing procedures for identifying and reporting cases, or suspected cases, of abuse.• Supporting students who have been abused in accordance with his/her agreed child protection plan.• Establishing a safe environment in which our students can learn and develop. <p>We recognise that because of the day to day contact with our students, school staff are well placed to observe the outward signs of abuse. The school will therefore:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Establish and maintain an environment where our students feel secure, are encouraged to talk, and are listened to.• Ensure our students know that there are adults in the school whom they can approach if they are worried.• Include opportunities in the PSHE curriculum for students to develop the skills they need to recognise and stay safe from abuse. <p>We will follow all statutory procedures and those set out by the Area Child Protection Committee and take account of guidance issued by the DCSF to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Ensure we have a designated teacher for child protection who has received appropriate training and support for this role.• Ensure we have a nominated governor responsible for child protection.• Ensure every member of staff, volunteer and governor knows the name of the designated teacher responsible for child protection and their role.• Ensure all staff and volunteers understand their responsibilities in being alert to the signs of abuse and responsibility for referring any concerns to the designated teacher responsible for child protection.• Ensure that parents have an understanding of the responsibility placed on the school and staff for child protection by setting out its obligations in the school prospectus.• Notify social services if there is an unexplained absence of more than two days of a student who is on the child protection register.• Develop effective links with relevant agencies and co-operate as required with		

their enquiries regarding child protection matters including attendance at case conferences.

- Keep written records of concerns about students, even where there is no need to refer the matter immediately.
- Ensure all records are kept securely; separate from the main student file, and in locked locations.
- Develop and then follow procedures where an allegation is made against a member of staff or volunteer.
- Ensure safe recruitment practices are always followed.

The safeguarding of students is also ensured by:

- Provisions within the Health & Safety policy.
- Medicines policy
- Annual training of staff on safeguarding responsibilities
- ICT/ Internet Access policy
- Equal opportunities, Anti-Bullying, Drugs, PSHE and Racial Harassment policies.

The Designated teacher for Child Protection is Mark Morren, Assistant Headteacher.

The Designated Governor for Child Protection is Reverend Stephen Coulson.

If a child protection concern arises regarding a staff member the matter should be referred to the Headteacher, Esther Holland.

If a child protection concern arises regarding the Headteacher the matter should be referred to the Chair of Governors, Sue Baxter.

We recognise that children who are abused or witness violence may find it difficult to develop a sense of self worth. They may feel helplessness, humiliation and some sense of blame. The school may be the only stable, secure and predictable element in the lives of children at risk. When at school their behaviour may be challenging and defiant or they may be withdrawn. The school will endeavour to support the student through:

- The content of the curriculum.
- The school ethos which promotes a positive, supportive and secure environment and gives students a sense of being valued.
- The school behaviour for learning policy which is aimed at supporting vulnerable student in the school. The school will ensure that the student knows that some behaviour is unacceptable but they are valued and not to be blamed for any abuse which has occurred.
- Liaison with other agencies that support the student such as social services, Child and Adult Mental Health Service, education welfare service and educational psychology service.
- Ensuring that, where a student on the child protection register leaves, their information is transferred to the new school immediately and that the child's social worker is informed.

Staff Responsible	EHO
School Group Responsible	Full Governing Body Nominated Governor
Date approved by Governing Body September 2009	Review Date September 2010