



Child Protection Policy

Unity College fully recognises its responsibilities for Child Protection.

The DSP is Mrs A Hodgson. Other staff with responsibility for Child Protection and Safeguarding are Diane Taylor / Beverley Worthington / Helen Thompson.

Our policy applies to all staff, governors and volunteers working in the college. There five main elements to our policy are to:

- ensure we practice safe recruitment in checking the suitability of staff and volunteers to work with children
- raise awareness of child protection issues and equipping children with the skills needed to keep them safe
- develop and then implement procedures for identifying and reporting cases, or suspected cases of abuse
- support students who have been abused in accordance with his/her agreed child protection plan
- establish a safe environment in which children can learn and develop.

We recognise that because of the day-to-day contact with children, college staff are well placed to observe the outward signs of abuse. The college will therefore:

- establish and maintain an environment where children feel secure, are encouraged to talk, and are listened to
- ensure children know that there are adults in the college whom they can approach if they are worried
- include opportunities in the ID curriculum for children to develop the skills they need to recognise and stay safe from abuse.

Under the Children Act 1989 a bullying incident should be addressed as a Child Protection concern where there is reasonable cause to suspect that a child is suffering, or is likely to suffer, significant harm.

Abuse/Misuse/Exploitation

Unity College will follow all Safeguarding and Child Protection concerns in relation to –

Neglect

Emotional abuse

Physical abuse

Sexual abuse

Sexual exploitation

Domestic violence

Self-harm

Forced marriages

Honour based violence

Fabricated and induced illness

Female genital mutilation

Alcohol and drug misuse

following Lancashire County Council expectations and procedures and the Local Safeguarding Children Board.

We will follow the procedures set out by the Local Safeguarding Children's Board and take account of guidance issued by the DCSF to:

- Ensure we have a designated senior person 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 (including temporary and supply staff and volunteers) and governing body knows the name of the designated senior person 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 senior person responsible for child protection.
- Ensure that parents have an understanding of the responsibility placed on the college and staff for child protection by setting out its obligations in the college prospectus.
- Notify Children's Social Care if there is an unexplained absence of more than two days of a student who is on the child protection register.
- Develop and then follow procedures where an allegation is made against a member of staff or volunteer.
- Develop effective links with relevant agencies and co-operate as required with their enquiries regarding child protection matters including attendance at case conferences.
- Ensure all records are kept securely, separate from the main student file, and in locked locations.
- Keep written records of concerns about children, even where there is no need to refer the matter immediately.
- If an allegation is made against the Headteacher, the Chair of Governors must be informed immediately.
- Ensure safe recruitment practices are always followed.

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 college may be the only stable, secure and predictable element in the lives of children at risk. When at college their behaviour may be challenging and defiant or they may be withdrawn. The college will endeavour to support the student through:

- The content of the curriculum.
- The college ethos which promotes a positive, supportive and secure environment and gives students a sense of being valued.
- The college Behaviour Policy which is aimed at supporting vulnerable students in the college. The college 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 Children's Social Care, East Lancashire Child & Adolescent 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 college immediately and that the child's social worker is informed.

This policy does not stand alone and the college has many other policies that support Child Protection:

- Safeguarding Policy
 - Anti-bullying Policy
 - Racial Incident Policy
 - Harassment and Discrimination Policy
 - Use of Physical Intervention Policy
 - Educational Visits Policy
 - Intimate Care Policy
 - E-safety Policy
 - Health & Safety Policy
 - Drug and Substance Mis-use Policy
 - Behaviour Management Policy
 - Child Looked After Policy
 - Attendance Policy
- Procedures for Assessing Risk
 - Induction and Code of Conduct for Staff
 - Intimate Care Policy
 - Safer recruitment Policy and Practice
 - Confidentiality
 - One to One Working
 - Children in Care
 - Equality
 - SEN Policy

Monitoring and Evaluation

The Child Protection Policy will be monitored on an on-going basis; however, a full evaluation will take place on a yearly basis.

This Policy was updated on

This Policy will be reviewed

