

CHILD PROTECTION POLICY AND PROCEDURES

1. The school has a duty to protect children from all possible sources of abuse - whether it is physical, sexual, emotional, racial, verbal or bullying.
2. Our aim is to encourage an atmosphere in which an individual can discuss a specific problem with whoever they choose and to ensure that it is then resolved satisfactorily.
3. Staff need to be alert to the possibilities of child abuse, and the issue needs to be addressed specifically within the PSME programme and also within social and religious studies lessons and tutor groups.
4. This would include Year Tutors, the Head of PSME, the Deputy Head, Headmaster and the Independent Listener. The Headmaster is designated as the school's Child Protection Officer and Mrs. Prettejohn will deputise in his absence.
5. The Childline phone number is prominently displayed and a separate phone is available for private conversations.
6. Staff are to be made aware of issues of child welfare through training forums and guided in the recognition of abuse, in all its possible forms, including racial and sexual harassment.
7. It is important to distinguish between abusive behaviour and normal childhood behaviour or sexual exploration.
8. All staff have a duty to refer to the Deputy Head, or Headmaster any worries they may have of possible abuse, whether outside or inside the school at whatever level and from whatever source.

It would be the normal course of action to suspend without prejudice anyone against whom a serious allegation of abuse has been made pending the outcome of an investigation.
9. Once a problem was raised, then an immediate discussion between the pupil and the person approached would take place, to reassure the pupil and to establish the genuine nature of the problem. It would be necessary to emphasize that any request for confidentiality could not be guaranteed if the information indicates that a child may be at risk. The safety and welfare of a child takes precedence over issues of confidentiality.
10. It is essential that a detailed written record be made at all stages.