

Policy Title: Child Protection



This policy outlines Eastbourne Technology College's aims regarding the protection of children and describes procedures which are to be followed to ensure that our students are kept safe from harm

Initiated: December 2007

Groups Consulted: Staff
Governors

Audience: Staff
Students
Parents
Governors

Policy Located: Shared Drive

Aims

At Eastbourne Technology College we recognise that for children and young people, high self esteem, confidence, supportive friends and clear lines of communication with trusted adults helps prevent the chances of their being abused. Our school will therefore aim to:

- establish and maintain an ethos where children feel secure, are encouraged to talk and are listened to
- ensure that children and young people know that there are adults in the school who they can approach if they are in worried or in difficulty
- include in the curriculum and PSHE programmes, activities which equip children and young people with skills they need to stay safe from abuse
- include in the curriculum material which will help children and young people develop realistic attitudes to the responsibilities of adult life, particularly with regard to childcare and parenting skills.
- ensure that every effort will be made to establish effective working relationships with parents and colleagues from other agencies

There are three main elements to our Child Protection Policy:

- Prevention
- Protection
- Support

Roles and Responsibilities

We recognise that all adults working with children and young people have a responsibility to protect them. There are, however, key people within the school who have specific responsibilities under child protection procedures. The designated teacher for child protection is a named member of the Senior Management Team. There is a named governor who reports to the governing body.

Procedures

Eastbourne Technology College adopts the appropriate child protection procedures as set out by the Area Child Protection Committee. Where it is believed that a child is suffering from, or is at risk of, significant harm, we will follow the procedures set out in the Area Child Protection Committees' Procedures. Significant harm can be defined as the ill-treatment or impairment of health and development of a child or young person. Development includes physical, intellectual, emotional, social or behavioural development. Health includes physical and mental health. Ill-treatment includes sexual abuse and other forms of ill – treatment which are not physical. This

is viewed from the perspective of normal behaviour for a child / young person of similar age and understanding.

Staff will understand that all information received in connection with child protection matters should be treated confidentially. **However, staff must never guarantee confidentiality to a child or young person.** Information relating to a child about whom there may be concerns or who has made a disclosure should be given to the named person who will take appropriate action in line with child protection procedures.

Should a child or young person disclose to a member of staff, the child should be listened to and taken seriously. They should be told that somebody else will be told but they will be made aware of to whom and when. If staff need to ask questions they should be open and not in any way leading. The member of staff must then report the matter to the named person. In most cases the child will be spoken to by the named person and this can be in the presence of the person to whom the disclosure was made or another trusted adult.

It is not the member of staff's task to establish whether the child is telling the truth or to decide whether what the child has described is abusive.

Records and Monitoring

Individual staff should keep their own notes regarding the welfare or behaviour of children. This could be a confidential log of minor concerns which could in time paint a broader picture. In the case of more serious concerns or a disclosure, clear notes must be taken of times, dates and what was actually said. These should then be passed on to the named person.

The named person will keep confidential records of referral information and feedback from agencies involved with individual cases. This information is kept secure and separate from other school records.

Child Protection Conferences

A child protection conference is called when there are concerns regarding the welfare of the child. At these meetings the school is represented by the named person, a Head of Community, an Assistant Head of Community or a senior member of the Centre staff.

Training and support

The designated teacher and nominated governor will attend training relevant to their role and will update this training at least every two years. Staff will be trained in these procedures every two years and induction programmes for new staff and trainee teachers will contain sessions in child protection.

Supporting Students at Risk

Our school recognises that children who are abused or who witness violence may find it difficult to develop a sense of self worth and to view the world in a positive way. This school may be the only stable, secure and predictable element in the lives of children at risk. Whilst at school, their behaviour may still be challenging and defiant. It is also recognised that some children who have experienced abuse may

in turn abuse others. This requires a considered, sensitive approach in order that the child can receive appropriate help and support.

This school will endeavour to support pupils through:

- the curriculum, to encourage self-esteem and self-motivation.
- the school ethos, which promotes a positive, supportive and secure environment and which gives all students and adults a sense of being respected and valued.
- the implementation of school behaviour management policies.
- a consistent approach, which recognises and separates the cause of behaviour from that which the child displays. This is vital to ensure that all children are supported within the school setting.
- regular liaison with other professionals and agencies who support the students and their families.
- a commitment to develop productive, supportive relationships with parents, whenever it is in the child's interests to do so.
- the development and support of a responsive and knowledgeable staff group trained to respond appropriately in child protection situations.