

## **Safeguarding Information for parents and young people**

***Children and young people have a fundamental right to be protected from harm.***

***Families have a right to expect schools to provide a safe and secure environment.***

All schools and colleges have a legal duty to work with other agencies, for example social care and the police, to safeguard children's welfare.

This document will explain to you what that means in practice. It also tells you where you can get more information or help. Budmouth College has a senior member of staff, Zillah Rainback, who is the Designated Safeguarding Lead responsible for Safeguarding matters affecting pupils at the school and a Deputy Lucy Vincent.

It also has procedures which explain how the College deals with safeguarding concerns, plus other safeguarding policies including managing allegations or concerns about the behaviour of members of staff.

You can ask for copies of these procedures from the College office or view them on the College website.

### ***Schools must follow:***

- The law and guidance from the Department for Education
- The Pan-Dorset Inter-Agency Safeguarding Procedures
- Their own safeguarding policies

If the college is worried about whether a pupil is suffering harm, they must refer this on to a social worker.

The college will normally let the pupil's parent(s) or carer(s) know when they do this but they should not contact them if they think that this could put a child or young person at increased risk of harm.

They will usually take advice from social workers about when to speak to parents. When a school/college refers a safeguarding concern to a social worker, they must share all relevant information about the student.

The Data Protection Act allows schools to share personal information with other agencies when there are safeguarding concerns about a child or young person.

### ***What happens if a social worker is involved.....***

The social work manager, usually in consultation with other agencies, will decide what should happen next. This should happen within 24 hours of receiving the referral.

They may decide that no further action is needed by them but suggest that the school or other agencies do an assessment using the Common Assessment Framework or provide services to support the child.

They may decide that the referral needs looking into further. What action is taken will depend on the circumstances.

Any of the following may be appropriate:

- An initial assessment
- Child protection enquiries. These include assessing the risks to the child, based upon research, information shared and talking to those concerned
- If the referral is about an allegation against a member of college staff, a discussion will take place between the college and the local authority to decide what should happen next. This might mean a referral to social workers and/or the police
- They will contact you to let you know what is happening as soon as possible.



***For more information...***

- **Look at your college's safeguarding policy and child protection procedures**
- Look at the Pan-Dorset Inter-Agency Safeguarding Procedures on the internet at: [www.dorsetlscb.co.uk](http://www.dorsetlscb.co.uk)
- Look at the Common Assessment Framework guidance at: <http://www.dorsetforyou.com/caf>
- Look at Government guidance 'Working Together to Safeguard Children' (2015) at: <http://publications.dcsf.gov.uk/>
- Look at Section 175 of the Education Act 2002 at: <http://www.opsi.gov.uk/acts/acts2002>
- Look at the Government guidance "Keeping Children Safe in Education" (Sept 2016) at: <http://publications.dcsf.gov.uk/>
- Look at the Government guidance "What To Do If You're Worried A Child Is Being Abused" (March 2015) at: <http://publications.dcsf.gov.uk/>
- Children and young people can contact Childline for free 24-hour telephone support on 0800 1111 or at [www.childline.org.uk](http://www.childline.org.uk)

***If you have a concern about a child, please tell somebody who can help: During College hours Zillah Rainback or Lucy Vincent are available on 01305 830500, or contact any of the offices below who will be more than happy to help.***

**Dorset Children's Services Social Care**

Single point of contact	01202 228866
Dorchester	01305 221450
Weymouth & Portland	01305 760139
Out of Hours:	01202 657279

**Dorset Police:**

Emergency:	999
Non-Emergency:	101

***"Safeguarding is everybody's business"***