

St Thomas à Becket Catholic College Child Protection ~ September 2009

“Because of their day to day contact with individual children during College terms, teachers and other College staff are particularly well placed to observe outward signs of abuse, changes in behaviour or failure to develop.”

Child Protection

Assistant Head (Pastoral): Tim Whitney

Designated Teachers: Patrick Kiernan and Nicki McIntyre

We have responsibility to ensure that all children in the college are afforded the benefit of whatever legal protection is available to protect and prevent them being abused. We act in loco parentis and hence have a duty to ensure that, if child abuse is alleged, the allegation is properly investigated and if necessary, to involve the appropriate outside agencies in the process of investigation.

If abuse is either disclosed by a pupil, or you suspect that has occurred, you must consult a designated Child Protection Teacher (Patrick Kiernan and/or Nicki McIntyre) to discuss the matter.

Confidentiality

The child has no right to absolute confidentiality when discussing child abuse. You are advised to make the child aware of this and to say that you may need to pass the disclosure onto another person. Make sure that you make a dated record of when the disclosure was made and complete a Concern Form.

Bullying

We need to ensure that bullying is properly dealt with in College. If bullying is disclosed to you, please issue the confidentiality warning previously mentioned and then discuss the situation with the appropriate Academic Tutor. Where the source of bullying is not obvious often lengthy investigation is required and, hence, it is imperative that you record and date the initial conversation with the child whilst the memory is fresh.

Incidents involving Bullying and Child Protection

Step-by-Step Guide

<u>Bullying</u>	<u>Child Protection</u>
1. (a) Bullying incident seen or disclosed. (b) Record and date what is said or what you have seen.	1. (a) Disclosure made. (b) Record and date what is being said.
2. Issue warning about confidentiality if disclosure has been made.	2. Issue a warning about confidentiality
3. Use discretion as to whether you can deal with the incident.	3. See Child Protection Designated Teacher and relay what is being disclosed. This person will decide the next step. Complete a Concern Form.

4. If noted, pass to the child's Academic Tutor who will arrange to interview the child. Complete a Concern Form and a referral slip and give to child's Form Tutor.
4. Do not broach the subject again unless directed by the Designated Teacher – unless you suspect more of the same thing again.
5. Do not broach the subject again unless directed by the Academic Tutor or unless the victim decides to talk to you about the matter.

Please note a more comprehensive guide is described in the Bullying Policy.

Racist, sexist, homophobic remarks or remarks about disability made to or about pupils or staff must be reported to a member of the pastoral staff. This should be supported by a referral slip to the Form Tutor.

Children in Public Care

Assistant Headteacher (Pastoral): Tim Whitney
Deputising Designated Teacher: Patrick Kiernan

There are always several pupils in college who are in the care of Wakefield or other local authorities. This is one of the target groups for pupils who underachieve or become permanently excluded. The names of these pupils will be disclosed in confidence to members of staff at the start of the school year. If you have any concerns about any of these pupils please contact the Designated Teacher.

Use of Outside Agencies:

There are several outside agencies, which support us as a college. If you feel that a child needs to be referred on because of something you know to be happening in their lives inside or outside of college, please let the appropriate Academic Tutor know unless your referral should be made directly to a Designated Teacher for Child Protection.

The main agencies we use are:

College Care: Connexions:	Worker: Lorraine Martin-Speight Worker: Anna Lawrence	Social Work and Counselling Counselling & Careers
Education Welfare: Police School Liaison:	Officer: Pam Osborne Officer: PC Mick Amos	Attendance Matters Bullying, Truancy, Drugs, Racism
School Medical: Educational Psychology:	Doctor: Dr Kaur Worker: Carmel Boorman	Medical Referral