

INTRODUCTION

As a result of dealings the College has had which involved an alleged serious sexual assault, it became apparent that the college's procedures were not adequate for dealing with the alleged victim, the alleged abuser or their parents/guardians in the way they would have liked. As a Catholic community we were anxious to carry out our duty of care as thoroughly as possible.

The following procedures have resulted from this experience.

PROCEDURES IN THE EVENT OF ALLEGED SEXUAL ABUSE INSIDE COLLEGE

1. When any incidence of alleged sexual abuse, inside college, is reported to a member of staff by a pupil, or others, that member of staff must immediately seek out one of the following designated Child Protection Officers, Patrick Kiernan or Nicky McIntyre.
2. Arrangements for covering the Child Protection Officers will be undertaken with immediate effect.
3. The alleged victim will be interviewed as soon as possible in the presence of two members of staff. In the case of a girl, at least one of these members of staff will be a woman; in the case of a boy, at least one will be a man.
4. After the interview, the following must take place:
 - a) The Parent/Guardian of the alleged victim will be contacted and arrangements made to collect their child.
 - b) The Parents/Guardians of the alleged abuser will be contacted and arrangements made to collect their child.
 - c) In both cases where time permits investigations should be carried out at the earliest possible opportunity in the presence of Parents/Guardians. Where incidents occur late in the day procedures A and B will be implemented and investigations and interviews will take place the following college day.
5. The college will endeavour to arrange with the Parents/Guardians of the alleged abuser that he/she be removed from college premises until such a time as the subsequent investigation has been completed.
6. Teachers of the alleged victim, by agreement with the alleged victim, and the alleged victim's parents will be informed of the allegations.
7. If the outcome is that abuse has taken place, beyond reasonable doubt, the alleged abuser will be excluded for a length of time to be determined by the Headteacher who will take account of all circumstances and may involve the police liaison officer.
8. If the case is pursued through the police, the parents/guardians will be advised that the college will have to await the outcome of any legal proceedings before further college action taken. However, the college will consult with the police in an endeavour to ensure that they will provide support to the alleged victim from the outset.
9. If the police are not involved, advice will be sought from the LA and Leeds diocese to establish which support may be offered through these agencies; this support will be offered, with the parents'/guardians' permission and knowledge, to the alleged victim.
10. Social Care Direct will be contacted only with the agreement of the Parents/Guardians of the alleged victim.
11. These procedures will be explained to both sets of parents.

N.B

Alleged sexual abuse outside the college will be dealt with under Statutory Child Protection procedures although, where the alleged abuser is a pupil at the college, the college will endeavour to ensure separation of the alleged victim from the alleged abuser while investigations take place, unless other wise directed by Social Services.

AFTERMATH

ALLEGED ABUSER

1. If the alleged abuser is to return to college after exclusion, agreement will be sought between both sets of parents/guardians as to the extent of contact, or otherwise, between the children concerned. This may mean the alleged abuser being moved classes and/or groups if the pupils are in the same year. Staff will be apprised of the situation. If no contact is a condition, any breach of this condition by the alleged abuser will result in further periods of exclusion until such a time as the conditions can be met.
2. In all instances the alleged abuser will be offered counselling.

ALLEGED VICTIM

1. All staff who come into contact with the alleged victim will be informed of the outcome of investigations, any disciplinary proceedings and agreed arrangements for reintegration of the alleged abuser.
2. If it is deemed necessary by parents/guardians, the alleged victim will be offered appropriate support inside college. This support may include counselling, teacher support, peer support, use of specialist external agencies, or other arrangement as agreed between the alleged victim, the alleged victim's parents/guardians and the college.

PREVENTION

1. As part of continued raising of staff awareness, the college will undertake to inform and advise members of staff on a regular basis to be vigilant in respect of this aspect of abuse, either inside the classroom or while on duty around the college.
2. Should any further legislation, guidance or advice be offered, the college will ensure that the staff responsible for Child Protection and/or others receive the appropriate training and/or advice.
3. While recognising data protection issues, the Headteacher will consult with partner primary colleagues in order to ensure that any concerns regarding pupils arriving in Year 7 are made known to the Head prior to their arrival in September.

COMPLAINTS PROCEDURE

1. In the first instance, if a parent/guardian is dissatisfied with the outcome of procedures following any alleged sexual abuse, an immediate interview should be sought with the Headteacher and Child Protection Teacher responsible.
2. Should the outcome of this interview prove to be unsatisfactory, representation should be made to the Chair of Governors, or, failing that, the Local Authority.