

St Thomas à Becket Catholic College **Child Protection**

“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

Designated Teacher: John Firth

Deputising Designated Teachers: Patrick Kiernan & Alison Duncan

We have responsibility to ensure that all children in the school 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, do not hesitate in consulting the designated Child Protection Teacher (John Firth or, if unavailable, Patrick Kiernan & Alison Duncan) 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.

Bullying

We need to ensure that bullying is properly dealt with in school. 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.
4. If noted pass to the child's Academic Tutor who will arrange to interview the child. Complete 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

Designated Teacher: John Firth

Deputising Designated Teacher: Patrick Kiernan

There are always several pupils in school 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 school. 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 school, please let the appropriate Academic Tutor know.

The main agencies we use are:

Catholic Care:
Connexions:

Worker: Lorraine Martin-Speight
Worker: Ashia Mubarek

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