

Key Messages

- The welfare of the child is paramount
- Any child might be abused
- Most abusers are known to the child
- Valuing and respecting children contributes to their safety
- Indicators are just that
- Recording and reporting systems are vital
- Inter-agency cooperation is essential
- Safeguarding is everybody's business

Our Trustees, Executive Leadership Team and the Safeguarding Team will ensure that all policies and procedures are kept up to date and in line with the latest advice from government.

In Summary

Children will sometimes disclose sensitive information to someone they perceive as a friendly person. In this situation we ask that:

- Never promise to keep this information a secret
- Do NOT ask leading questions
- Make a written note of what is said, ideally at the time of disclosure or as soon afterwards as possible, using the student's words
- Reassure the student that they were right to pass on their concerns
- Pass information onto the Designated Safeguarding Lead
- Keep information confidential; it is not a matter for gossip
- Do not worry that you might be wasting

If someone is in danger or at risk of immediate harm, call the police on 999.

If you are worried about the safety of a child please contact Richard Woodland, Director of Safeguarding: rwoodland@westst.org.uk or 07736 938677 for advice.

Do remember that anyone can make a referral direct to children's social care if they are concerned.

Cornwall: MARU 0300 1231116

Devon: MASH 0345 1551071

Plymouth: MASH 01752 668000

If you are concerned about the conduct of a WeST employee, please contact Rob Haring (WeST CEO): rharing@westst.org.uk. If he is unavailable another member of the Executive Leadership Team. If you are concerned about the conduct of the CEO please contact the Chair of the Trust Board, Iain Grafton: igrafton@westst.org.uk

Concerns can be raised directly with the NSPCC Whistleblowing hotline: 0800 028 0285



SAFEGUARDING CHILDREN THE ROLE OF EVERY ADULT



**WESTCOUNTRY
SCHOOLS TRUST**



Westcountry Schools Trust is committed to safeguarding all its children, staff and visitors. Safeguarding is a priority. Arrangements are in place to ensure everyone's safety.

The Trust ensures that safeguarding legislation and guidance are adhered to and taken into account when developing policies and procedures.

We provide a safe environment for our students and staff. We ensure that all WeST sites are of good standard.

The Trust's commitment to safeguarding is paramount to the success of all our children.

If you have any concerns you must contact the Safeguarding Team

- Keep a record of your concern, sign and date it
- If you are uncertain whether to 'bother' someone pass the information on to a Safeguarding Lead
- Follow up and ensure your concern has been actioned

What may raise your level of concern

- Marks on a child's body
- Changed behaviours, emotions, unusual amounts of money or presents, or carrying more than one mobile phone
- Comments made by a child - disclosure or descriptive remarks

However, there may be non-abusive reasons for these.

How to deal with a disclosure

Do...

- Take the child seriously
- Reassure them that it is alright to tell you
- Take your time
- Let them speak
- Listen carefully
- Ask open questions
- Clarify with open questions
- Say what you will do next e.g. report to Designated Safeguarding Lead
- Record verbatim and sign and date
- Provide factual information
- Consider medical attention
- Liaise with Designated Safeguarding Lead at the earliest opportunity

Do not...

- Promise to keep a secret
- Stop the child from speaking
- Ask leading questions
- Question unnecessarily
- Make assumptions
- Minimise e.g. "That doesn't sound serious"
- Try to deal with it on your own
- Delay in passing on your concern
- Force the child to recall
- Ask the child to show you any injuries requiring the removal of clothing
- End the conversation abruptly
- Criticise the alleged perpetrator
- View photographs or images (If these are accidentally shown to you report to a Safeguarding Lead)

Following a Disclosure

- Pass on the concern to the Designated Safeguarding Lead, as soon as possible
- Confidentiality - you should only discuss your concerns with appropriate other people; it is not a matter for gossip

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Stronger together....every child in a great school