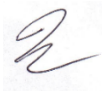


Statement of procedures for dealing with allegations of abuse against staff

Ellesmere Port Catholic High School



Approved by:	Mr J Coucill, Chair of Governors 
Lead of Review:	Mr C Jones, Business Manager
Last reviewed on:	February 2021
Next review due by:	February 2022

1. Introduction

1.1 This Statement of Procedures follows the DfE Statutory Guidance **Keeping children safe in education (2020) Update – January 2021 (Post EU Exit) Part four: Allegations of abuse made against teachers and other staff, including supply teachers and volunteers.**

It is about managing cases of allegations that might indicate that a person is unsuitable to continue to work with children in their present position, or in any capacity. It will be used in respect of all cases where it is alleged that an employee or volunteer, or a person with permission to be on the premises or carrying out any activity on behalf of Ellesmere Port Catholic High School has;

- Behaved in a way that has harmed a child, or may have harmed a child;
- Possibly committed a criminal offence against or related to a child; or
- Behaved towards a child or children in a way that indicates he or she may pose a risk of harm to children.
- Behaved or may have behaved in a way that indicates they may not be suitable to work with children.

This will include allegations involving any type of abuse or neglect, including inappropriate relationships with pupils, grooming behaviour of any kind, possession of indecent photographs or images of children and other offences under the Sexual Offences Act 2003.

1.2 Any allegation of abuse will be dealt with as quickly as possible, in a fair, consistent, and thorough way that provides effective protection for the child or children and at the same time deals fairly with the person who is the subject of the allegation.

2. Communicating the Procedures

2.1 All members of the Senior Leadership Team and the Designated Safeguarding Lead with responsibility for child protection have a responsibility to ensure that all staff know about and understand section 3 below.

2.3 In accordance with the DfE Statutory Guidance, all staff should also read at least Part one of Keeping Children Safe in Education, which contains Safeguarding information for all staff.

2.4 All members of the Senior Leadership Team and the Designated Safeguarding Lead have a responsibility to be familiar with the Statutory Guidance in its entirety.

3. Immediately Reporting an Allegation

3.1 Everyone who comes into contact with children and their families has a role to play in safeguarding children. If you have a concern that a person (as described in paragraph 1.1 above) may have behaved inappropriately or you have received information that may constitute an allegation you must:

- Report the facts to the Headteacher as soon as possible. All concerns will be listened to and managed appropriately; do not withhold information however trivial it may seem.

- In the absence of the Headteacher you must report the matter to the most senior person available who will carry out the Headteacher duties in his/her absence. If the allegation concerns the Headteacher then the matter must be reported to the Chair of Governors.
- Make a signed and dated written record of your concerns, observations, or the information you have received and give it to the Headteacher straight away.
- Maintain strict confidentiality.

3.2 You must not:

- Attempt to deal with the situation yourself.
- Make assumptions, offer alternative explanations, or diminish or embellish the seriousness of the behaviour or alleged incidents.
- Keep the information to yourself or promise confidentiality.
- Take any action that might undermine any investigation or disciplinary procedure, such as disclosing confidential information, interviewing the alleged victim or potential witnesses, or informing the alleged perpetrator or parents/carers.

4. Duties and Responsibilities of the Headteacher

4.1 The duties and responsibilities of the Headteacher are as described in Keeping children safe in education (2020) Update January 2021 (Post EU Exit): Allegations of abuse against teachers and other staff, including supply teachers and volunteers, a copy of which is available on the VLE, T Drive staff folder or in the main office.

4.2 The contact details for the Designated Officer for Safeguarding are: Mrs Jayne Jones, Associate Deputy Headteacher.

The Local Authority produces Allegations Management guidance and procedures for senior managers which have been adopted by the school and are available in school.

Guidelines/Procedures/Documentation to support this statement:

- Allegations of abuse made against staff and volunteers: Detailed procedures.
- Cheshire West and Chester Safeguarding Children Partnership
- Cheshire West and Chester Allegations Procedures
- Allegations Referral Form