

16 September 2024

## **Commitment to Safeguarding and Child Protection**

Dear Parents,

At The Sir John Colfox Academy, we have a commitment to the safeguarding and protection of all children in our care.

To do this, we have a responsibility to consider the wellbeing of all children who attend this setting. This means that we are aware of the things we see and hear from children that might indicate the child is at risk of harm. In most situations, any matter of concern that is identified will be discussed with you as the parent or carer of the child. We recognise these can be difficult conversations to have but we will raise matters with you as we know the wellbeing and safety of your child is important. In the best interests of your child, we would hope that we can have an open and honest conversation, should the situation arise.

In certain circumstances, we will share these concerns in accordance with the Local Safeguarding Children's Board Procedures. This means we will contact the **CHAD (Children's Advice and Duty Service)** in West Dorset. They will make a decision as to whether the concern warrants further assessment or investigation. CHAD is the first point of contact with children's social work services.

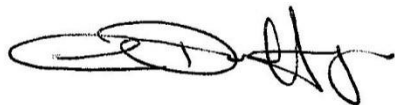
In very rare circumstances and where children are seen to be at risk of immediate harm, we may contact CHAD without having spoken to you first and gained your agreement.

Our school is also part of a joint project between schools and Dorset police: Operation Encompass. The project enables the reporting to schools when a young person has experienced any domestic abuse. It ensures that members of our school staff, known as Key Adults, are trained to allow them to liaise with the police and to use the information that has been shared, in confidence, and to make provision for possible difficulties experienced by children or their families, who have experienced a domestic abuse incident.

More detail regarding this and the safeguarding and child protection practices for The Sir John Colfox Academy is contained in our policy. A copy of this policy is available on our website, or a copy can be made available to you upon request. Our website also contains further resources and links to support families and children with various safeguarding concerns.

We feel it is important that you are aware of our commitment to safeguarding and child protection and what this may mean in practice.

Yours faithfully



Mrs C Duffy  
Deputy Headteacher and DSL.

**Contacts in school in case of concerns**

**Designated Safeguarding Lead:**

Mrs C Duffy, Deputy Headteacher, after-school clubs (mixed and girls), e-safety.

**Deputy Safeguarding officers:**

Mr T Hardinge, Deputy Headteacher, after-school clubs (boys).

Mr S Morse – Head of Year 11.

Mr J Maybury – Head of Year 10

Mr E Westley – Head of Year 9

Miss N Burden – Head of Year 8

Mrs C Baker – Head of Year 7 and Assistant SENDCO.

Mr A Teasdale/Mrs T Smith – Assistant Headteacher Sixth Form and anti-bullying ambassador.

/ Sixth Form support

Mrs L Hocking – Assistant Headteacher and SENDCO

**Pastoral support officers:**

Miss F Pinkett

Mrs K Harris

Miss M Birch

**Safeguarding governors:**

Mrs H Farmer

Mrs T Davies