



LEWESTON

P R E P

LEWESTON PREPARATORY SCHOOL **Safeguarding (Child Protection) Policy**

At Leweston Preparatory School, staff, parents and pupils work together to create a happy, caring learning environment, which truly reflects the Christian beliefs and ethos of the Foundation.

This Safeguarding (Child Protection) Policy provides equality of access and opportunity to all in a spirit of Christian love, with understanding and acceptance of individual differences and respect for all persons. The guiding principle for all aspects of school life is to treat others as we ourselves would wish to be treated. This embraces the understanding that everyone has responsibilities, rights and deserves respect.

This policy meets the requirements of the Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS). All members of staff have been given access to this policy as part of their induction and it has been explained to and is accessible to all parents. This is communicated to the EYFS parents during the Welcome Sessions.

Leweston Preparatory School recognises that the welfare of the child is paramount and takes seriously its responsibility to safeguard and promote the welfare of the children and young people in its care, which complies with DCSF Guidance *Safeguarding Children and Safer Recruitment in Education*. This Policy is also consistent with the requirements of 'Working Together to Safeguard Children' (HM Government 2010) copies of which are available in the staff room and boarding office.

The School's Safeguarding (Child Protection) policy and procedures :

- Operate safe recruitment procedures (including CRB checks and compliance with Independent School Standards Regulations)
- Ensure that appropriate child protection checks and procedures apply to any staff employed by another organisation and working with the school's pupils on another site (for example at Sail Laser, Portland Sailing Academy)
- Include arrangements to deal with allegations of abuse against members of staff/volunteers/head
- Names the Senior and Deputy 'Designated Persons' with status and authority to take responsibility for child protection matters
- Ensures the 'Designated Persons' are trained in child protection and inter agency working every two years
- Ensures that all other staff are trained in child protection every three years. Part time and voluntary staff who work with children are also made aware of these arrangements and attend the training
- Ensure that any deficiencies or weaknesses in child protection arrangements are remedied without delay
- Are reviewed annually by the Governing Body and this review includes a review of the school's child protection policies and procedures and of the efficiency with which the related duties have been discharged

An agreed definition of safeguarding is: 'All agencies take all reasonable measures to ensure that the risks of harm to children's welfare are minimised. Where there are concerns, all agencies take action to address those concerns, working to agreed local policies and procedures in full partnership with other local agencies' - Joint Chief Inspectors' report 2002.

Promoting welfare involves 'creating opportunities to enable children to have optimum life chances in adulthood' – Framework for the Assessment of Children in Need and their Families (Government guidance 2000).

The Governing Body will act in accordance with Section 175 (or Section 157, for Independent Schools) of the Education Act 2002 and the supporting statutory guidance Working Together to Safeguard Children: A guide to inter-agency working to safeguard and promote the welfare of children (March 2010)

All children have the right to be safeguarded from harm or exploitation whatever their

- race, religion, first language or ethnicity
- gender or sexuality
- age
- health or disability
- political or immigration status

Governors, staff and volunteers in this school understand the importance of working in partnership with children, their parents/carers and other agencies in order to promote children's welfare.

The purpose of this policy is to:

- afford protection for the students at Leweston Preparatory School
- enable staff and volunteers to safeguard and promote the welfare of children
- promote a culture which makes this school a safer place to learn

This policy, which includes the accompanying procedures, are in accordance with the locally agreed inter-agency procedures, adopted by Dorset Local Authority (LA), referenced in the 'Yellow File' and updated regularly. The policy is available to parents on the school's website. It applies to the Headteacher, all staff (including supply and peripatetic staff), volunteers, Governors or anyone working on behalf of Leweston Preparatory School.

We will endeavour to safeguard children and young people by:

- valuing them, listening to and respecting them
- involving them in decisions which affect them
- making sure all staff and volunteers are aware of and committed to the safeguarding policy and child protection procedures*
- sharing information about concerns with agencies who need to know, and involving children and their parents/carers appropriately
- recruiting staff and volunteers safely, ensuring all necessary checks are made*
- adopting a code of conduct for all staff and volunteers*
- providing effective management through induction, support and training
- ensuring staff and volunteers understand about 'whistle blowing'*
- dealing appropriately with allegations/concerns about staff or volunteers, in accordance with Government guidance*

*see separate policy/guidance

Boarding house staff are particularly aware of and alert to safeguarding and child protection procedures and are sensitive to the needs of overseas students. The deputy designated person for Leweston Senior School for child protection is a member of the boarding staff. Senior pupils in the boarding house are briefed on appropriate action to take should they receive any allegations of abuse. The boarding staff create an environment within which girls feel comfortable and know how to discuss safeguarding and child protection matters, should it be necessary, and with whom. The school has clear guidelines for resident non-staff and they are fully aware of safe guarding and child protection policies and procedures. [Further information on safeguarding (child protection) for boarders is contained within Leweston Senior School safeguarding policy].

This Safeguarding (Child protection) Policy is reviewed annually by the Governing Body

Date this Safeguarding (Child protection) Policy was adopted by the Governing Body:

Date: 8th March 2011

Signed: Mr A May (Chair of Governors)

Written May 2008
Reviewed March 2011
Next Review March 2012 (or in conjunction with locally agreed safeguarding officer)