



Stockport Academy

The best in everyone™

A member of United Learning Trust

Section 31

Child Protection

Guidance

These guidance notes should be read in conjunction with the United Learning Trust Child Protection Policy.

AIMS

Stockport Academy believes that every student is entitled to feel safe and secure in the school environment and that students must feel confident that any disclosure of abuse will be treated seriously. All members of staff should be vigilant in identifying any signs of possible abuse.

DESIGNATED MEMBERS OF STAFF

- There will be two named, designated members of staff in the Academy who will be responsible for all aspects of the Child Protection Policy and Procedures.
- The two designated members of staff will be one female and one male.
- The designated members of staff will have undertaken training to support adults and students in potential procedures relating to child abuse of any kind.
- The two designated members of staff are Tim Whittle and Suzanne Drew.



Tim Whittle



Suzanne Drew

DEFINITIONS OF CHILD ABUSE

1. **Physical Abuse** where a child is physically hurt.
2. **Sexual Abuse** where a child is exploited sexually by another person who uses the child to meet their own sexual needs.
3. **Neglect** where parents/carers fail to meet the basic and essential needs of children eg. food, warmth, clothes and medical care.
4. **Emotional Abuse** where a child consistently faces a lack of love and attention or is constantly threatened by verbal attacks, taunting and shouting.

PROCEDURE IN THE EVENT OF SUSPECTED CHILD ABUSE OR DISCLOSURE OF ABUSE BY A STUDENT

- 1 **In a case of a member of staff suspecting abuse of a student by another, the concern should:**
 - Be reported to the named designated member of staff immediately.
 - The designated member of staff will discuss the reported incident with relevant staff to ensure they are in possession of all necessary information.
- 2 **In the case of a disclosure of abuse by a student to a member of staff, the member of staff should:**
 - Listen carefully to the student
 - Take all allegations seriously
 - Tell the student that they are not to blame
 - Never use leading questions
 - Try to use the words the student uses however uncomfortable you may feel with them
 - Explain to the student that their safety is the prime concern

3 In aspects of confidentiality regarding disclosure of abuse by students or suspected abuse of students the member of staff involved must:

- Ensure that the student understands that the information must be shared with the designated member of staff and that they may inform Social Services
- Ensure that any disclosure is treated in complete confidence other than liaison with the designated member of staff

4 The designated member of staff will:

- Be the point of contact and support for all staff in cases of suspicion or disclosure of abuse
- Co-ordinate and monitor systems through the pastoral system to ensure appropriate support for students who have been abused
- Ensure that regular in-service training be given to all staff on the indications of child abuse and school procedures in relation to it

Any member of staff suspecting abuse of a student or having been involved in a disclosure of abuse by a student should be free to seek support for themselves from a colleague other than the designated member of staff. In such a support network, the name of the student must not be disclosed.