

Child Protection Advice for Volunteers & Visitors

Thank you for your interest in becoming a volunteer or regular visitor. As a school we are committed to safeguarding and meeting the needs of children and we hope this leaflet will provide some useful advice and information when working with children at South Bromsgrove High.

What are my responsibilities?

All those who come into contact with children through their everyday work whether paid or voluntary have a duty to safeguard and promote the welfare of children.

DBS checks

South Bromsgrove High's Recruiting and Selection Procedures specify that all adults who work in 'regulated activity' and work in a 'specified place' such as a school and this work is regular - i.e. once a week or more or 4 or more days in a 30 day period or overnight - will require an enhanced DBS Disclosure. This is to help ensure that unsuitable people are prevented from working with children. If your work with children means that you are supervised at all times, this may not be required.

The Headteacher's PA will help you complete the DBS on-line application form and advise which documentation is necessary for you to present for the ID checks to be completed. You can apply to join the 'update service' at the same time to ensure that your certificate is portable. You must show your certificate to your Headteacher as soon as you receive it. The Headteacher may ask you to give signed consent so that he/she can use the update service.

It is a requirement, also, that you inform the Headteacher immediately if you become subject to any criminal investigation, caution or conviction. This helps to protect you as well as the young people in your care.

South Bromsgrove High has a Safeguarding Students Policy and a copy is available on the school website www.southbromsgrove.worcs.sch.uk or from the Headteacher's PA.

What should I do if I am worried about a child?

If whilst working with a child you become concerned about:

- Comments made by a child
 - Marks or bruising on a child
 - Changes in the child's behaviour or demeanour
- Please report these concerns to the class teacher, who if they feel it is appropriate will pass the information on to the school's Designated Safeguarding Lead.

What should I do if a child discloses that s/he is being harmed?

Although the likelihood of this is small it is important to know what to do in such an eventuality as children rarely lie about such matters

- Listen to what is being said without displaying shock or disbelief; accept what is being said
- Allow the child to talk freely
- Reassure the child, but do not make promises that might not be possible to keep
- Do not promise confidentiality but explain to the child that you may have to tell their teacher or the Headteacher in order that they can provide appropriate help
- **Do not interrogate** the child or **ask leading questions**
- Reassure the student that it is not their fault
- Stress that it was the right thing to tell
- Do not ask the child to write a statement
- Do not criticise the alleged perpetrator

Immediately record details of the disclosure, including wherever possible the exact words or phrases used by the child. This information must then be added as an incident on CPOMS, recording the exact date and time.

What should I do if the alleged abuser is a member of the school staff?

You should report such allegations to the Headteacher.

What should I do if the alleged abuser is the Headteacher?

You should report such allegations to the Chair of Governors or the Designated Safeguarding Lead.

What should I do if I witness worrying behaviour by another adult in school?

You should always report this to the Headteacher.

How do I ensure that my behaviour is always appropriate?

Appropriate relationships with children should be based on mutual trust and respect.

As a volunteer or regular visitor you may well be working closely with children sometimes on a one to one basis. Children, especially when they are young, are often spontaneously affectionate and tactile and it is important not to alienate them through lack of response or by appearing to reject this. You should, however, be careful about touching students.

If you are working with a student on his/her own always ensure that the door is left open or that you can be visible to others.

Do not photograph students, unless requested to by the class teacher, exchange e-mails or text messages, or give out your own personal details. Any unprofessional contact with students (e.g. through a social networking site) may leave you vulnerable to an allegation of abuse being made against you.

Please help us to safeguard the children in our care by following these guidelines.

CONTACTS

No child should suffer harm, either at home or at school. Everyone who works in our school has a responsibility to make sure that all our young people are safe.

This leaflet has been given to you to make sure you understand what is expected of you. Please ask the school's DSL if you are unclear about anything in it, and keep the leaflet in a safe place, so that you can read it again if you need to.

If you are worried about the safety of any young person in our school, you must report this to the DSL or Headteacher.

Headteacher:
Mr C Smith

Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL)
Miss K Pascoe – Deputy Headteacher

Deputy DSLs:
Mr N Coates – Director of Sixth Form
Mrs C Wilkin-Mead – Assistant Director of Sixth Form
Mrs K Nicol – Assistant Headteacher
Mrs J Rees – Head of Year

Governor with Safeguarding responsibility:
Mrs A Jewson

Chair of Governors:
Mrs A Jewson

Headteacher's PA
Mrs B Watts

T: 01527 831783 F: 01527 837162
sbhs@southbromsgrove.worcs.sch.uk
www.southbromsgrove.worcs.sch.uk

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SAFEGUARDING ADVICE FOR VOLUNTEERS & VISITORS

***SOUTH BROMSGROVE HIGH IS
COMMITTED TO SAFEGUARDING AND
PROMOTING THE WELFARE OF CHILDREN
AND YOUNG PEOPLE AND EXPECTS ALL
STAFF AND VOLUNTEERS TO SHARE THIS
COMMITMENT.***