

Confidentiality Policy

The policy of the school is to work in partnerships with parents and carers in order to promote the wellbeing of children and young people. The school also aims to build up relationships of trust with pupils. Pupils, parents and carers should feel able to raise with the school concerns about safety and wellbeing in the knowledge that these matters will be dealt with sensitively.

Children and young people have a right to privacy under the European Convention on Human Rights (ECHR) and the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC); children have the same rights to confidentiality as adults. This includes supporting them to have as much control over their situation as possible, in the context of their stage of development and level of understanding. The school will operate on the presumption that anything imparted in confidence will be treated in confidence. This is subject to four qualifications:

- i. Anything imparted 'in confidence' to one member of staff or person approached as an associate of the school, may be shared with a restricted number of colleagues if that person feels in need of support and guidance from them.
- ii. If serious concerns are raised about the safety, wellbeing or protection of a child, in line with the school's 'wellbeing and Child Protection Procedures', staff are required to pass that information to the Child Protection Coordinator and Named Person (Claire Samuel) for consideration as to appropriate action including whether it should be shared with the appropriate authorities. In these circumstances, the person approached would not, except in an emergency, breach the confidence without letting the pupil seeking assistance know that he/she intended to do so and as a matter of good practice seek their consent to pass on the information as well as seeking their views.
- iii. Where there are concerns that a pupil may be at risk of significant harm, advice will always be taken from statutory authorities. Sharing information that is relevant and proportionate about children who are at risk of harm, is fundamental to keeping children safe.

- iv. The school must pass on information when legally obliged to do so, for example by a court of law.

Pupils must feel able to share concerns with staff. There may be a conflict of interest when a pupil consults a member of staff about a problem and does not want the information to be shared with their parents/carers. While staff will always encourage and support pupils to share information with their parents/carers, there may be circumstances in which any pressure to pass the information on could not be in the pupil's best interests and result in the pupil keeping the problem to him or herself or not sharing concerns in the future.

Parents should be reassured that, whenever possible, it is the aim of the school to act in the best interests of the child and to encourage the fullest possible involvement and consultation with parents.