

# PORTFIELD SCHOOL & SATELLITE CENTRES



## POLICY DOCUMENT FOR SAFER WORKING PRACTICE FOR ADULTS WHO WORK WITH CHILDREN & YOUNG PEOPLE



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Nov 2016

Portfield School adopts the LEA guidance on:-  
Safer Working Practice for Adults who work with Children & Young People Policy

This policy will be reviewed annually.

Signed ..... (Chair of Governors)

Signed ..... (Headteacher)

Date.....

Reviewed.....

Reviewed.....

Reviewed.....

**Pembrokeshire County Council**

Cyngor Sir Penfro



**GUIDANCE FOR SAFER WORKING  
PRACTICE FOR ADULTS WHO WORK  
WITH CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE**

**January 2016**

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## Portfield School Mission Statement

Working together    Learning together    Achieving together

At Portfield School we strive to

- Create a happy, safe, supportive and stimulating learning environment
- Value everyone
- Develop everyone's personal, social, emotional health and wellbeing
- Promote relevant academic and vocational skills
- Meet individual needs through an imaginative and flexible approach
- Enable all learners to achieve their full potential

UNCRC United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child

- Portfield School places the values and principles of the UNCRC at the heart of all policies and practices
- Portfield School is a Rights Respecting School

### I. Definitions

References made to adults and staff refer to all those who work with children, in either a paid or unpaid capacity.

The term 'allegation' means where it is alleged that a person who works with children has

- behaved in a way that has harmed a child, or may have harmed a child;
- possibly committed a criminal offence against or related to a child; or,
- behaved towards a child or children in a way that indicates they may pose a risk of harm to children.

References are made in this document to legislation and statutory guidance which differ dependent on the setting and alter over time. However, the behavioural principles contained within the document remain consistent, hence, wherever possible, such references have been removed in order that the document does not appear to quickly become out of date or to apply only to certain staff or settings.

### II. Overview and purpose of guidance

The document seeks to ensure that the responsibilities of Managers/Head Teachers towards children and staff are discharged by raising awareness of illegal, unsafe, unprofessional and unwise behaviour. It should assist staff to monitor their own standards and practice and reduce the risk of allegations being made against them. It is also recognised that not all people who work with children work as paid or contracted employees. The principles and guidance outlined in this document still apply and should be followed by any person whose work brings them into contact with children.

The guidance will also support employers in giving a clear message that unacceptable behaviour will not be tolerated and that, where appropriate, legal or disciplinary action is likely to follow. Managers/Head Teachers may refer to the document in any disciplinary proceedings.

Whilst every attempt has been made to cover a wide range of situations, it is recognised that any guidance cannot cover all eventualities. There may be times when professional judgements are made in situations not covered by this document, or which directly contravene the guidance given by the employer. It is expected that in these circumstances staff will always advise their senior colleagues of the justification for any such action already taken or proposed.

All staff have a responsibility to be aware of systems within their work environment which support safeguarding and these should be explained to them as part of staff induction and in regular staff training sessions. This includes, where relevant, the child protection policy and staff behaviour policy (sometimes called code of conduct) of which this document will become a part.

It is recognised that the vast majority of adults who work with children act professionally and aim to provide a safe and supportive environment which secures the well-being and very best outcomes for children in their care. Achieving these aims is not always straightforward, as much relies on child and staff interactions where tensions and misunderstandings can occur. This document aims to reduce the risk of these.

It must be recognised that some allegations will be genuine as there are people who seek out, create or exploit opportunities to harm children. However, allegations may also be false or misplaced and may arise from differing perceptions of the same event. When they occur, they are inevitably distressing and difficult for all concerned. It is therefore essential that all possible steps are taken to safeguard children and ensure that the adults working with them do so safely.

Managers/Head Teachers should know how to access the Council's document "The management of allegations against adults who work with children". This document supplements Part of the All Wales Child Protection Procedures.

### **III. Underpinning principles**

- The welfare of the child is paramount
- Staff should understand their responsibilities to safeguard and promote the welfare of children
- Staff are responsible for their own actions and behaviour and should avoid any conduct which would lead any reasonable person to question their motivation and intentions
- Staff should work, and be seen to work, in an open and transparent way
- Staff should acknowledge that deliberately invented/malicious allegations are extremely rare and that all concerns should be reported and recorded

- Staff should discuss and/or take advice promptly from their line manager if they have acted in a way which may give rise to concern
- Staff should apply the same professional standards regardless of culture, disability, gender, language, racial origin, religious belief and sexual orientation
- Staff should not consume or be under the influence of alcohol or any substance, including prescribed medication, which may affect their ability to care for children
- Staff should be aware that breaches of the law and other professional guidelines could result in disciplinary action being taken against them, criminal action and/or other proceedings including barring by the Disclosure & Barring Service (DBS) from working in regulated activity and/or misconduct prohibition by any relevant professional body
- Staff and managers should continually monitor and review practice to ensure this guidance is followed
- Staff should be aware of and understand their establishment's child protection policy, arrangements for managing allegations against staff, staff behaviour policy, whistle blowing procedure and their Local Safeguarding Children Board LSCB procedures.

#### **IV How to use this document**

This document is intended only to be guidance and does not have any statutory weight. However, where statutory guidance does exist in relation to a specific topic or practice, this is noted in the text.

Each section provides general guidance about a particular aspect of work and, in the right hand column, specific guidance about which behaviours should be avoided and which are recommended.

Some settings will have additional responsibilities arising from their regulations (e.g. Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS), Quality Standards) or their responsibility towards young people over the age of 18. Not all sections of the guidance will, therefore, be relevant to all establishments.

## 1. Introduction

Adults have a crucial role to play in the lives of children. This guidance has been produced to help them establish the safest possible learning and working environments which safeguard children and reduce the risk of them being falsely accused of improper or unprofessional conduct.

*This means that these guidelines:*

- Apply to **all** adults working with children, either in a paid or unpaid capacity

## 2. Status of document

This document is endorsed and recommended by the Safer Recruitment Consortium. It was written to assist employers to develop and review their guidelines on safer working practices. It may be used as reference by managers and Local Authority Designated Officers<sup>1</sup> when responding to allegations made against staff. This is **not** statutory guidance.

## 3. Responsibilities

Staff are accountable for the way in which they: exercise authority; manage risk; use resources; and safeguard children.

*This means that staff should:*

- understand the responsibilities which are part of their employment or role, and be aware that sanctions will be applied if these provisions are breached
- always act, and be seen to act, in the child's best interests
- avoid any conduct which would lead any reasonable person to question their motivation and intentions
- take responsibility for their own actions and behaviour

All staff have a responsibility to keep children safe and to protect them from abuse (sexual, physical and emotional), neglect and safeguarding concerns. Children have a right to be safe and to be treated with respect and dignity. It follows that trusted adults are expected to take reasonable steps to ensure their safety and well-being. Failure to do so may be regarded as professional misconduct.

*This means that the Council should:*

- promote a culture of openness and support
- ensure that systems are in place for concerns to be raised
- ensure that adults are not placed in situations which render them particularly vulnerable
- ensure that all adults are aware of expectations, policies and procedures

The safeguarding culture is, in part, exercised through the development of respectful, caring and professional relationships between adults and children and behaviour by the adult that demonstrates integrity, maturity and good judgement.

The public, employers and parents/carers will have expectations about the nature of professional involvement in the lives of children. When individuals accept a role working with children they should understand and acknowledge the responsibilities and trust involved in that role.

*This means that Managers / Head*

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<sup>1</sup> Working Together 2015 refers to the Designated Officer – some local authority arrangements continue to refer to the LADO. Whilst some local authorities may still be using the term LADO the acronym DO is used to denote the DO function as set out in Working Together to Safeguard Children 2015



The Council has a duty towards its employees and others under Health and Safety legislation which requires them to take steps to provide a safe working environment for staff.

Legislation also imposes a duty on employees to take care of themselves and anyone else who may be affected by their actions or failings. An employer's Health and Safety duties and the adults responsibilities towards children should not conflict. Safe practice can be demonstrated through the use and implementation of these guidelines.

#### **4. Making professional judgements**

This guidance cannot provide a complete checklist of what is, or is not, appropriate behaviour for staff. It does highlight however, behaviour which is illegal, inappropriate or inadvisable. There will be rare occasions and circumstances in which staff have to make decisions or take action in the best interest of a child which could contravene this guidance or where no guidance exists. Individuals are expected to make judgements about their behaviour in order to secure the best interests and welfare of the children in their charge and, in so doing, will be seen to be acting reasonably. These judgements should always be recorded and shared with a manager.

Adults should always consider whether their actions are warranted, proportionate, and safe and applied equitably.

#### **5. Power and positions of trust and authority**

As a result of their knowledge, position and/or the authority invested in their role, all those working with children are in a position of trust in relation to all children in their care.

The relationship between a person working with a child is one in which the adult has a position of power or influence. It is vital for adults to understand this power; that the relationship cannot be one between equals and the responsibility they must exercise as a consequence.

The potential for exploitation and harm of vulnerable children means that adults have a responsibility to ensure that an unequal balance of power is not used for personal advantage or gratification.

*Teachers should:*

- ensure that appropriate safeguarding and child protection policies and procedures are distributed adopted, implemented and monitored

*This means that where no specific guidance exists staff should:*

- discuss the circumstances that informed their action, or their proposed action, with their line manager or, where appropriate in the case of school based staff, the school's designated safeguarding lead. This will help to ensure that the safest practices are employed and reduce the risk of actions being misinterpreted
- always discuss any misunderstanding accidents or threats with the Manager/Head Teacher or designated safeguarding lead
- always record discussions and actions taken with their justifications
- record any areas of disagreement and, if necessary refer to another agency/the LA/ other Regulatory Body

*This means that staff should not:*

- use their position to gain access to information for their own advantage and/or a child's or family's detriment
- use their power to intimidate, threaten, coerce or undermine children
- use their status and standing to form or promote relationships with children which are of a sexual nature, or which may become so

Staff should always maintain appropriate professional boundaries, avoid behaviour which could be misinterpreted by others and report and record any such incident.

Where a person aged 18 or over is in a position of trust with a child under 18, it is an offence<sup>2</sup> for that person to engage in sexual activity with or in the presence of that child, or to cause or incite that child to engage in or watch sexual activity.

## 6. Confidentiality

The storing and processing of personal information is governed by the Data Protection Act 1998. The Council provides clear advice to staff about their responsibilities under this legislation so that, when considering sharing confidential information, those principles should apply.

Staff may have access to confidential information about children and their families which must be kept confidential at all times and only shared when legally permissible to do so and in the interest of the child. Records should only be shared with those who have a legitimate professional need to see them.

Staff should never use confidential or personal information about a child or her/his family for their own, or others advantage (including that of partners, friends, relatives or other organisations). Information must never be used to intimidate, humiliate, or embarrass the child. Confidential information should never be used casually in conversation or shared with any person other than on a need-to-know basis. In circumstances where the child's identity does not need to be disclosed the information should be used anonymously.

There are some circumstances in which a member of staff may be expected to share information about child, for example when abuse is alleged or suspected. In such cases, individuals have a responsibility to pass information on without delay, but only to those with designated safeguarding responsibilities.

If a child – or their parent / carer – makes a disclosure regarding abuse or neglect, the member of staff should follow the setting's procedures.

The adult should not promise confidentiality to a child or parent, but should give reassurance that the information

*This means that staff:*

- need to know the name of their Local Authority Designated Officer, Safeguarding Lead and be familiar with Regional Safeguarding Board (CYSUR) child protection procedures and guidance:
- are expected to treat information they receive about children and families in a discreet and confidential manner
- should seek advice from a senior member of staff (designated safeguarding lead) if they are in any doubt about sharing information they hold or which has been requested of them
- need to be clear about when information can/ must be shared and in what circumstances
- need to know the procedures for responding to allegations against staff and to whom any concerns or allegations should be reported
- need to ensure that where personal information is recorded using modern technologies that systems and devices are kept secure

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<sup>2</sup> Sexual Offences Act 2003

will be treated sensitively.

If a member of staff is in any doubt about whether to share information or keep it confidential he or she should seek guidance from the Local Authority Designated Officer. Any media or legal enquiries should be passed to senior management.

## 7. Standards of behaviour

All staff have a responsibility to maintain public confidence in their ability to safeguard the welfare and best interests of children. They should adopt high standards of personal conduct in order to maintain confidence and respect of the general public and those with whom they work.

There may be times where an individual's actions in their personal life come under scrutiny from the community, the media or public authorities, including with regard to their own children, or children or adults in the community. Staff should be aware that their behaviour, either in or out of the workplace, could compromise their position within the work setting in relation to the protection of children, loss of trust and confidence, or bringing the employer into disrepute. Such behaviour may also result in -, prohibition from practice by the relevant professional body, a bar from engaging in regulated activity. or action by another relevant regulatory body.

The Childcare (Disqualification) Regulations 2009 set out grounds for disqualification under the Childcare Act 2006 where the person or a person living in the same household or employed in the same household meets certain criteria set out in the Regulations. For example, an individual will be disqualified where they have committed a relevant offence against a child; been subject to a specified order relating to the care of a child; committed certain serious sexual or physical offences against an adult; been included on the DBS children's barred list; been made subject to a disqualification order by the court; previously been refused registration as a childcare provider or provider or manager of a children's home or had such registration cancelled. A disqualified person is prohibited from providing relevant early or later years childcare as defined in the Childcare Act 2006 or being directly concerned in the management of such childcare. Schools and private childcare settings are also prohibited from employing a disqualified person in respect of relevant early or later years childcare.

*This means that staff should not:*

- behave in a manner which would lead any reasonable person to question their suitability to work with children or to act as an appropriate role model
- make, or encourage others to make sexual remarks to, or about, a child
- use inappropriate language to or in the presence of children
- discuss their personal or sexual relationships with or in the presence of children
- make (or encourage others to make) unprofessional personal comments which scapegoat, demean or humiliate, or might be interpreted as such

*This means that staff should:*

- be aware that behaviour by themselves, those with whom they share a household, or others in their personal lives, may impact on their work with children
- understand that a person who provides Early Years education or Childcare may be disqualified because of their "association" with a person living or employed in the same household who is disqualified.
- read Portfield School's ICT/e-Safety policy
- read Portfield School's Behaviour, Discipline & Anti Bullying policy

## 8. Dress and appearance

A person's dress and appearance are matters of personal choice and self-expression and some individuals will wish to exercise their own cultural customs. However staff should select a manner of dress and appearance appropriate to their professional role and which may be necessarily different to that adopted in their personal life. Staff should ensure they are dressed decently, safely and appropriately for the tasks they undertake. Those who dress or appear in a manner which could be viewed as offensive or inappropriate will render themselves vulnerable to criticism or allegation.

*This means that staff should wear clothing which:*

- promotes a positive and professional image
- is appropriate to their role
- is not likely to be viewed as offensive, revealing, or sexually provocative
- does not distract, cause embarrassment or give rise to misunderstanding
- is absent of any political or otherwise contentious slogans
- is not considered to be discriminatory
- is compliant with professional standards
- in Portfield School there is a dress code which staff are requested to adhere to – read Portfield School's dress code

## 9. Gifts, rewards, favouritism and exclusion

The Council's Code of Conduct makes reference to the giving and receiving of gifts or rewards. Staff should be made aware of and understand what is expected of them.

Staff need to take care that they do not accept any gift that might be construed as a bribe by others, or lead the giver to expect preferential treatment.

There are occasions when children's parents wish to pass small tokens of appreciation to staff e.g. at Christmas or as a thank-you and this is usually acceptable. However, it is unacceptable to receive gifts on a regular basis or of any significant value.

Similarly, it is inadvisable to give such personal gifts to children or their families. This could be interpreted as a gesture either to bribe or groom. It might also be perceived that a 'favour' of some kind is expected in return.

Any reward given to a child should be in accordance with agreed practice, consistent with policy, recorded and not based on favouritism.

Adults should exercise care when selecting children for specific activities, jobs or privileges in order to avoid perceptions of favouritism or injustice. Similar care should be exercised when children are excluded from an

*This means that staff should:*

- be aware of and understand their the Council's relevant policies, e.g. rewarding positive behaviour
- ensure that gifts received or given in situations which may be misconstrued are declared and recorded
- only give gifts to a child as part of an agreed reward system
- where giving gifts other than as above, ensure that these are of insignificant value and given to all children in the group equally
- ensure that all selection processes of children are fair and these are undertaken and agreed by more than one member of staff
- ensure that they do not behave in a manner which is either favourable or unfavourable to individual children

activity. Methods of selection and exclusion should always be subject to clear, fair, agreed criteria.

## 10. Infatuations and ‘crushes’

All staff need to recognise that it is not uncommon for children to be strongly attracted to a member of staff and/or develop a ‘crush’ or infatuation. They should make every effort to ensure that their own behaviour cannot be brought into question, does not appear to encourage this and be aware that such infatuations may carry a risk of their words or actions being misinterpreted.

Any member of staff who receives a report, overhears something, or otherwise notices any sign, however small or seemingly insignificant, that a young person has become or may be becoming infatuated with either themselves or a colleague, should immediately report this to the Manager/Head Teacher or most senior manager<sup>3</sup>. In this way appropriate early intervention can be taken which can prevent escalation and avoid hurt, embarrassment or distress for those concerned.

The Head teacher (or senior manager) should give careful thought to those circumstances where the staff member, child and their parents/carers should be spoken to and should ensure a plan to manage the situation is put in place. This plan should respond sensitively to the child and staff member and maintain the dignity of all. This plan should involve all parties, be robust and regularly monitored and reviewed.

## 11. Social contact outside of the workplace

It is acknowledged that staff may have genuine friendships and social contact with parents of children in their care, independent of the professional relationship. Staff should, however, also be aware that professionals who sexually harm children often seek to establish relationships and contact outside of the workplace with both the child and their parents, in order to ‘groom’ the adult and the child and/or create opportunities for sexual abuse. It is also important to recognise that social contact may provide opportunities for other types of grooming such as for the purpose of sexual exploitation or radicalisation.

Staff should recognise that some types of social

*This means that staff should:*

- report any indications (verbal, written or physical) that suggest a child may be infatuated with a member of staff
- always maintain professional boundaries

*This means that senior managers should:*

- put action plans in place where concerns are brought to their attention
- record all concerns and incidents on Behaviour Watch and discuss with SLT

*This means that staff should:*

- always approve any planned social contact with children or parents with senior colleagues, for example when it is part of a reward scheme
- advise senior management of any regular social contact they have with a child which could give rise to concern
- refrain from sending personal communication to children or parents unless agreed with senior managers
- inform senior management of any relationship with a parent where this

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<sup>3</sup> If the headteacher has the concern that a young person is becoming infatuated with them, they should report this to the chair of governors

contact with children or their families could be perceived as harmful or exerting inappropriate influence on children, and may bring the setting into disrepute (e.g. attending a political protest, circulating propaganda).

If a child or parent seeks to establish social contact, or if this occurs coincidentally, the member of staff should exercise her/his professional judgement. This also applies to social contacts made through outside interests or the staff member's own family.

Some staff may, as part of their professional role, be required to support a parent or carer. If that person comes to depend upon the staff member or seeks support outside of their professional role this should be discussed with senior management and where necessary referrals made to the appropriate support agency.

## **12. Communication with children (including the use of technology)**

In order to make best use of the many educational and social benefits of new and emerging technologies, children need opportunities to use and explore the digital world. E-safety risks are posed more by behaviours and values than the technology itself.

Staff should ensure that they establish safe and responsible online behaviours, working to local and national guidelines and acceptable use policies which detail how new and emerging technologies may be used.

Communication with children both in the 'real' world and through web based and telecommunication interactions should take place within explicit professional boundaries. This includes the use of computers, tablets, phones, texts, e-mails, instant messages, social media such as Face book and Twitter, chat-rooms, forums, blogs, websites, gaming sites, digital cameras, videos, web-cams and other hand held devices. (Given the ever changing world of technology it should be noted that this list gives examples only and is not exhaustive.)

Staff should not request or respond to any personal information from children other than which may be necessary in their professional role. They should ensure that their communications are open and transparent and avoid any communication which could be

extends beyond the usual parent/professional relationship

- inform senior management of a requests or arrangements where parents wish to use their services outside of the workplace e.g. babysitting, tutoring

*This means that adults should:*

- not seek to communicate/make contact or respond to contact with children in their care outside of the purposes of their work
- not give out their personal details
- use only equipment and Internet services provided by the setting
- follow the Acceptable Use policy
- ensure that their use of technologies could not bring their employer into disrepute
- read Portfield School ICT/e-safety Policy
- refer to staff code of conduct
- discuss concerns with SLT

interpreted as 'grooming behaviour'

Staff should not give their personal contact details to children for example, e-mail address, home or mobile telephone numbers, details of web based identities. If children locate these by any other means and attempt to contact or correspond with the staff member, the adult should not respond and must report the matter to their manager. The child should be firmly and politely informed that this is not acceptable.

Staff should, in any communication with children, also follow the guidance in section 7 'Standards of Behaviour'.

Staff should adhere to the Council's policies, including those with regard to communication with parents and carers and the information they share when using the internet.

### **13. Physical contact**

There are occasions when it is entirely appropriate and proper for staff to have physical contact with children, however, it is crucial that they only do so in ways appropriate to their professional role and in relation to the child's individual needs and any agreed care plan.

Not all children feel comfortable about certain types of physical contact; this should be recognised and, wherever possible, adults should seek the child's permission before initiating contact and be sensitive to any signs that they may be uncomfortable or embarrassed. Staff should acknowledge that some children are more comfortable with touch than others and/or may be more comfortable with touch from some adults than others. Staff should listen, observe and take note of the child's reaction or feelings and, so far as is possible, use a level of contact and/or form of communication which is acceptable to the child.

It is not possible to be specific about the appropriateness of each physical contact, since an action that is appropriate with one child, in one set of circumstances, may be inappropriate in another, or with a different child.

Any physical contact should be in response to the child's needs at the time, of limited duration and appropriate to their age, stage of development, gender, ethnicity and background. Adults should therefore, use their professional judgement at all times.

*This means that staff should:*

- be aware that even well intentioned physical contact may be misconstrued by the child, an observer or any person to whom this action is described
- Never touch a child in a way which may be considered indecent
- always be prepared to explain actions and accept that all physical contact be open to scrutiny
- never indulge in horseplay or fun fights
- always allow/encourage children, where able, to undertake self-care tasks independently
- ensure the way they offer comfort to a distressed child is age appropriate
- always tell a colleague when and how they offered comfort to a distressed child
- establish the preferences of child's
- consider alternatives, where it is anticipated that a child might misinterpret or be uncomfortable with physical contact
- always explain to the child the reason why contact is necessary and what form that contact will take
- report and record situations which may give rise to concern
- be aware of cultural or religious views about touching and be sensitive to issues of gender

Physical contact should never be secretive, or for the gratification of the adult, or represent a misuse of authority. If a member of staff believes that an action by them or a colleague could be misinterpreted, or if an action is observed which is possibly abusive the incident and circumstances should be immediately reported to the manager and recorded. Where appropriate, the manager should consult with the Local Authority Designated Officer (the LADO).

Extra caution may be required where it is known that a child has suffered previous abuse or neglect. Staff need to be aware that the child may associate physical contact with such experiences. They also should recognise that these children may seek out inappropriate physical contact. In such circumstances staff should deter the child sensitively and help them to understand the importance of personal boundaries.

A general culture of 'safe touch' should be adopted, where appropriate, to the individual requirements of each child. Children with disabilities may require more physical contact to assist their everyday learning. The arrangements should be understood and agreed by all concerned, justified in terms of the child's needs, consistently applied and open to scrutiny.

#### **14. Other activities that require physical contact**

In certain curriculum areas, such as PE, drama or music, staff may need to initiate some physical contact with children, for example, to demonstrate technique in the use of a piece of equipment, adjust posture, or support a child so they can perform an activity safely or prevent injury.

Physical contact should take place only when it is necessary in relation to a particular activity. It should take place in a safe and open environment i.e. one easily observed by others and last for the minimum time necessary. The extent of the contact should be made clear and undertaken with the permission of the child. Contact should be relevant to their age / understanding and adults should remain sensitive to any discomfort expressed verbally or non-verbally by the child.

Guidance and protocols around safe and appropriate physical contact may be provided, for example, by sports governing bodies and should be understood and applied consistently. Any incidents of physical contact that cause concern or fall outside of these protocols and guidance

*This means that settings should:*

- have written care plans in place for any child who could be expected to require intimate care
- ensure that child's are actively consulted about their own care plan
- read Portfield School's Health & Safety policy
- check consent gained for supportive intimate personal care
- record all concerns/incidents on Behaviour Watch
- discuss with SLT

*This means that staff should:*

- treat children with dignity and respect and avoid contact with intimate parts of the body
- always explain to a child the reason why contact is necessary and what form that contact will take
- seek consent of parents where a child is unable to give this e.g. because of a disability
- consider alternatives, where it is anticipated that a child might misinterpret any such contact
- be familiar with and follow recommended guidance and protocols
- conduct activities where they can be seen by others
- be aware of gender, cultural and religious issues that may need to be

*This means that settings should:*

- have written care plans in place for any child who could be expected to require intimate care
- ensure that child's are actively consulted about their own care plan

*This means that staff should:*



should be reported to the senior manager and parent or carer.

It is good practice if all parties clearly understand at the outset, what physical contact is necessary and appropriate in undertaking specific activities. Keeping parents/carers and child's informed of the extent and nature of any physical contact may also prevent allegations of misconduct or abuse arising.

## 15. Intimate / personal care

Schools and settings should have clear nappy or pad changing and intimate / personal care policies which ensure that the health, safety, independence and welfare of children is promoted and their dignity and privacy are respected. Arrangements for intimate and personal care should be open and transparent and accompanied by recording systems.

Children should be encouraged to act as independently as possible and to undertake as much of their own personal care as is possible and practicable. When assistance is required, this should normally be undertaken by one member of staff, however, they should try to ensure that another appropriate adult is in the vicinity who is aware of the task to be undertaken and that, wherever possible, they are visible and/or audible. Intimate or personal care procedures should not involve more than one member of staff unless the child's care plan specifies the reason for this.

A signed record should be kept of all intimate and personal care tasks undertaken and, where these have been carried out in another room, should include times left and returned.

Any vulnerability, including those that may arise from a physical or learning difficulty should be considered when formulating the individual child's care plan. The views of parents, carers and the child, regardless of their age and understanding, should be actively sought in formulating the plan and in the necessary regular reviews of these arrangements.

Children are entitled to respect and privacy at all times and especially when in a state of undress, including, for example, when changing, toileting and showering.

However, there needs to be an appropriate level of supervision in order to safeguard children, satisfy health and safety considerations and ensure that bullying or

*should:*

- have in place up to date guidance and protocols on appropriate physical contact that promote safe practice and include clear expectations of behaviour and conduct.
- read Portfield School's Positive Handling policy
- ensure that staff are made aware of this guidance and that it is continually promoted

*This means that settings should:*

- have written care plans in place for any child who could be expected to require intimate care
- ensure that child's are actively consulted about their own care plan

*This means that staff should:*

- adhere to the Council's intimate and personal care and nappy changing policies
- make other staff aware of the task being undertaken
- always explain to the child what is happening before a care procedure begins
- consult with colleagues where any variation from agreed procedure/ care plan is necessary
- record the justification for any variations to the agreed procedure/care plan and share this information with the child and their parents/carers
- avoid any visually intrusive behaviour where there are changing rooms
- announce their intention of entering
- always consider the supervision needs of the children and only remain in the room where their needs require this
- read Portfield School's Intimate Care policy
- see pupil's health care plans and consent forms

*This means that adults should not:*

- change or toilet in the presence or

teasing does not occur. This supervision should be appropriate to the needs and age of the young people concerned and sensitive to the potential for embarrassment.

## 16. Behaviour management

Corporal punishment and smacking is unlawful in all schools and early years settings.

Staff should not use any form of degrading or humiliating treatment to punish a child. The use of sarcasm, demeaning or insensitive comments towards children is completely unacceptable.

Where children display difficult or challenging behaviour, adults should follow the school's or setting's behaviour and discipline policy using strategies appropriate to the circumstance and situation.

Where a child has specific needs in respect of particularly challenging behaviour, a positive handling plan, including assessment of risk, should be drawn up and agreed by all parties, including, for example, a medical officer where appropriate.

Senior managers should ensure that the establishment's behaviour policy includes clear guidance about the use of isolation and seclusion. The legislation on these strategies is complex and staff should take extreme care to avoid any practice that could be viewed as unlawful, a breach of the child's human rights and/or false imprisonment.

## 17. The use of control and physical intervention

Early years providers must take all reasonable steps to ensure that corporal punishment is not given by any person who cares for or is in regular contact with a child, or by any person living or working in the premises where care is provided. A person will not be taken to have used corporal punishment if the action was taken for reasons that include averting an immediate danger of personal injury to, or an immediate danger of death of, any person including the child<sup>4</sup>.

sight of children

- shower with children assist with intimate or personal care tasks which the child is able to do
- read Portfield School's Health & Safety policy and Toileting policy
- adhere to health care plans and consent forms

*This means that staff should:*

- not use force as a form of punishment
- try to defuse situations before they escalate e.g. by distraction
- keep parents informed of any sanctions or behaviour management techniques used
- be mindful of and sensitive to factors both inside and outside of the school or setting which may impact on a child's behaviour
- follow the establishment's behaviour management policy
- behave as a role model
- avoid shouting at children other than as a warning in an emergency/safety situation
- refer to national and local policy and guidance regarding Restrictive Physical Intervention (RPI)
- be aware of the legislation and potential risks associated with the use of isolation and seclusion
- comply with legislation and guidance in relation to human rights and restriction of liberty
- undertake independently
- read Portfield School's Behaviour Discipline & Anti Bullying policy
- read positive handling plans for pupils

*This means that Managers/Head Teachers should:*

- ensure that they have a lawful physical intervention policy consistent with local and national guidance
- regularly acquaint staff with policy and guidance
- ensure that staff are provided with appropriate training and support

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<sup>4</sup> Para 3.52 EYFS and The Early Years Foundation Stage (Welfare Requirements) Regulations 2012, Regulation 7

The law and guidance for schools states that adults may reasonably intervene to prevent a child from:

- committing a criminal offence
- injuring themselves or others
- causing damage to property
- engaging in behaviour prejudicial to good order and to maintain good order and discipline.

Great care must be exercised in order that adults do not physically intervene in a manner which could be considered unlawful.

Under no circumstances should physical force be used as a form of punishment. The use of unwarranted or disproportionate physical force is likely to constitute a criminal offence. Where the school or setting judges that a child's behaviour presents a serious risk to themselves or others, they must always put in place a robust risk assessment which is reviewed regularly and, where relevant, a physical intervention plan.

In all cases where physical intervention has taken place, it would be good practice to record the incident and subsequent actions and report these to a manager and the child's parents. (In a children's home it is a legal requirement to record such incidents.)

Similarly, where it can be anticipated that physical intervention is likely to be required, a plan should be put in place which the child and parents/carers are aware of and have agreed to. Parental consent does not permit settings to use unlawful physical intervention or deprive a child of their liberty.

## 18. Sexual conduct

Any sexual behaviour by a member of staff with or towards a child in their care is unacceptable. It is an offence for a member of staff in a position of trust to engage in sexual activity with a child less than 18 years of age<sup>5</sup> and sexual activity with a child could be a matter for criminal and/or disciplinary procedures. Children are protected by the same laws as adults in relation to non-consensual sexual behaviour. They are additionally protected by specific legal provisions depending on their age and understanding. This includes the prohibition of sexual activity with children by adults in a position of trust.

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<sup>5</sup> Sexual Offences Act 2003: abuse of a position of trust

- have an agreed policy for when and how physical interventions should be recorded and reported
- read Portfield School's Behaviour and Positive Handling policy and pupils positive handling plans

*This means that staff should:*

- adhere to the physical intervention policy
- always seek to defuse situations and avoid the use of physical intervention wherever possible
- where physical intervention is necessary, only use minimum force and for the shortest time needed

*This means that staff should not:*

- use physical intervention as a form of punishment
- report via Behaviour Watch and bound book
- discuss issues with SLT

*This means that staff should:*

- not have any form of sexual contact with a pupil from the school or setting
- avoid any form of touch or comment which is, or may be considered to be, indecent
- avoid any form of communication with a pupil which could be interpreted as sexually suggestive, provocative or give rise to

Sexual activity involves physical contact including penetrative and non-penetrative acts; however it also includes non-contact activities, such as causing children to engage in or watch sexual activity or the production of pornographic material.

There are occasions when adults embark on a course of behaviour known as 'grooming' where the purpose is to gain the trust of a child, and manipulate the relationship so sexual abuse can take place. All staff should undertake appropriate training so they are fully aware of those behaviours that may constitute 'grooming' and of their responsibility to always report to a senior manager any concerns about the behaviour of a colleague which could indicate that a child is being groomed.

## 19. One to one situations

Staff working in one to one situations with children at the setting, including visiting staff from external organisations can be more vulnerable to allegations or complaints.

To safeguard both children and adults, a risk assessment in relation to the specific nature and implications of one to one work should always be undertaken. Each assessment should take into account the individual needs of each child and should be reviewed regularly.

Arranging to meet with children from the school or setting away from the work premises should not be permitted unless the necessity for this is clear and approval is obtained from a senior member of staff, the child and their parents/carers.

## 20. Home visits

All work with children and parents should usually be undertaken in the school or setting or other recognised workplace. There are however occasions, in response to an urgent, planned or specific situation or job role, where it is necessary to make one-off or regular home visits.

It is essential that appropriate policies and related risk assessments are in place to safeguard both staff and children, who can be more vulnerable in these situations.

A risk assessment should be undertaken prior to any planned home visit taking place. The assessment should include an evaluation of any known factors regarding the child, parents/carers and any others living in the household. Consideration should be given to any circumstances which might render the staff member

speculation e.g. verbal comments, letters, notes, by email or on social media, phone calls, texts, physical contact

- not make sexual remarks to or about a pupil
- not discuss sexual matters with or in the presence of pupils other than within agreed curriculum content or as part of their recognised job role

*This means that staff should:*

- ensure that wherever possible there is visual access and/or an open door in one to one situations
- avoid use of 'engaged' or equivalent signs wherever possible. Such signs may create an opportunity for secrecy or the interpretation of secrecy
- always report any situation where a pupil becomes distressed or angry
- consider the needs and circumstances of the pupil involved

*This means that staff should:*

- agree the purpose for any home visit with their manager
- adhere to agreed risk management strategies
- avoid unannounced visits wherever possible
- ensure there is visual access and/or an open door in one to one situations
- always make detailed records including times of arrival and departure
- ensure any behaviour or situation which gives rise to concern is discussed with their manager

*This means that education settings*

becoming more vulnerable to an allegation being made e.g. hostility, child protection concerns, complaints or grievances. Specific thought should be given to visits outside of 'office hours' or in remote or secluded locations. Following the assessment, appropriate risk management measures should be put in place, before the visit is undertaken. In the unlikely event that little or no information is available, visits should not be made alone.

*should:*

- ensure that they have home visit and lone-working policies which all adults are made aware of. These should include arrangements for risk assessment and management
- ensure that all visits are justified and recorded
- ensure that staff are not exposed to unacceptable risk
- make clear to staff that, other than in an emergency, they should not enter a home if the parent/carer is absent
- ensure that staff have access to a mobile telephone and an emergency contact
- read Portfield School's Home Tutor policy

## 21. Transporting children

In certain situations staff or volunteers may be required or offer to transport children as part of their work. As for any other activity undertaken at work, the employer has a duty to carry out a risk assessment covering the health and safety of their staff and to manage any known risks<sup>6</sup>.

Staff should not offer lifts to children unless the need for this has been agreed by a manager. A designated member of staff should be appointed to plan and provide oversight of all transport arrangements and respond to any concerns that may arise.

Wherever possible and practicable it is advisable that transport is undertaken other than in private vehicles and with at least one adult additional to the driver acting as an escort.

It is a legal requirement that all passengers wear seatbelts and the driver should ensure that they do so. They should also be aware of and adhere to current legislation regarding the use of car seats for younger children.

Staff should ensure that their behaviour is safe and that the transport arrangements and the vehicle meet all legal requirements. They should ensure that the vehicle is roadworthy and appropriately insured and that the maximum carrying capacity is not exceeded.

Staff should never offer to transport children outside of

*This means that staff should:*

- plan and agree arrangements with all parties in advance
- respond sensitively and flexibly where any concerns arise
- take into account any specific or additional needs of the pupil
- have an appropriate licence/permit for the vehicle
- ensure they are fit to drive and free from any drugs, alcohol or medicine which is likely to impair judgement and/ or ability to drive
- ensure that if they need to be alone with a pupil this is for the minimum time
- be aware that the safety and welfare of the pupil is their responsibility until this is safely passed over to a parent/carer
- report the nature of the journey, the route and expected time of arrival in accordance with agreed procedures
- ensure that their behaviour and all arrangements ensure vehicle, passenger and driver safety. This includes having proper and appropriate insurance for the type of vehicle being driven
- ensure that any impromptu or emergency arrangements of lifts are recorded and can be justified
- read Portfield School's Health &

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<sup>6</sup> See also <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/health-and-safety-advice-for-schools>

their normal working duties, other than in an emergency or where not doing so would mean the child may be at risk. In these circumstances the matter should be recorded and reported to both their manager and the child's parent(s). The school's health and safety policy and/or educational visits policy should set out the arrangements under which staff may use private vehicles to transport children.

## 22. Educational visits

Staff responsible for organising educational visits should be familiar with the Department for Education's advice on Health and Safety available at <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/health-and-safety-advice-for-schools><sup>7</sup>

The duties in the Health and Safety at Work etc. Act 1974 and the supporting regulations apply to activities taking place on or off the school premises (including school visits) in Great Britain. All school employers must have a Health and Safety policy. This should include policy and procedures for off-site visits, including residential visits and any school-led adventure activities.

The Management of Health and Safety at Work Regulations (1999) impose a duty on employers to produce suitable and sufficient risk assessments. This would include assessment of any risks to employees, children or others during an educational visit, and the measures that should be taken to minimise these risks. For regular activities, such as taking children to a local swimming pool, the risks should be considered under the school's general arrangements and a check to make sure that the precautions remain suitable is all that is required. For annual or infrequent activities, a review of an existing assessment may be all that is needed. For new higher-risk activities or trips, a specific assessment of the significant risks should be carried out.

Staff should take particular care when supervising children in the less formal atmosphere of an educational visit where a more relaxed discipline or informal dress and language code may be acceptable. However, staff remain in a position of trust and need to ensure that their behaviour cannot be interpreted as seeking to establish an inappropriate relationship or friendship.

Where out of school or setting activities include overnight stays, careful consideration needs to be given to sleeping arrangements. Children, adults and parents

Safety policy

- two adults (school staff) in car with pupils
- discuss with SLT

*This means that staff should:*

- adhere to the Council's educational visits guidance
- always have another adult present on visits, unless otherwise agreed with senior staff
- undertake risk assessments
- have parental consent to the activity
- ensure that their behaviour remains professional at all times
- never share beds with a child
- never share bedrooms unless it involves a dormitory situation and the arrangements have been previously discussed with Head teacher, parents and child
- refer to local and national guidance for Educational visits, including exchange visits (both to the UK and abroad)

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<sup>7</sup> Guidance is also available from the Outdoor Education Advisers' Panel <http://oeapng.info/>

should be informed of these prior to the start of the trip. In all circumstances, those organising trips and outings should pay careful attention to ensuring there is a safe staff/child ratio and suitable gender mix of staff.

### 23. First Aid and medication

All settings should have an adequate number of qualified first-aiders. Parents should be informed when first aid has been administered.

Any member of school staff may be asked to become a qualified first-aider or to provide support to children with medical conditions, including the administering of medicines, but they cannot be required to do so unless this forms part of their contract of employment<sup>8</sup>

Staff should receive sufficient and suitable training and achieve the necessary level of competency before they take on responsibility to support children with medical conditions.

Advice on managing medicines is included in the statutory guidance on supporting children at school with medical conditions. In circumstances where a child needs medication regularly, this would usually be recorded in their individual healthcare plan. This provides details of the level and type of support a child needs to manage effectively their medical condition in school and should include information about the medicine to be administered, the correct dosage and any storage requirements.

After discussion with parents, children who are competent should be encouraged to take responsibility for managing their own medicines and procedures. This could include for example, the application of any ointment or sun cream, or use of inhalers or Epipens.

If a member of staff is concerned or uncertain about the amount or type of medication being given to a child this should be discussed with the Designated Safeguarding Lead.

Adults taking medication which may affect their ability to care for children should seek medical advice regarding their suitability to do so and providers should ensure that they only work directly with children if that advice confirms that the medication is unlikely to impair their

*This means that education settings should:*

- ensure there are trained and named individuals to undertake first aid responsibilities, including paediatric first aid if relevant
- ensure training is regularly monitored and updated
- refer to local and national First Aid guidance and guidance on meeting the needs of children with medical conditions that adults should:
- adhere to the school or setting's health and safety and supporting pupils with medical conditions policies
- make other staff aware of the task being undertaken
- have regard to pupils' individual healthcare plans
- always ensure that an appropriate health/risk assessment is undertaken prior to undertaking certain activities
- explain to the pupil what is happening.
- always act and be seen to act in the pupil's best interest
- make a record of all medications administered
- not work with pupils whilst taking *medication unless medical advice confirms that they are able to do so*
- read Portfield School's Health & Safety policy
- read Portfield School's Administration of Medicines policy

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<sup>8</sup> Teachers cannot be required to do these tasks but other members of staff, whose contracts are agreed locally, can be required to do so if their contracts provide for it.

ability to look after children. Employers are also responsible for managing the performance of their employees and for ensuring they are suitable to work with children.

Risk assessment is likely to recommend that staff medication on the premises must be securely stored and out of reach of children at all times.

## 24. Photography, videos and other images

Some activities involve recording images. These may be undertaken for displays, publicity, to celebrate achievement and to provide records of evidence of the activity. Under no circumstances should staff be expected or allowed to use their personal equipment to take images of children at or on behalf of the school or setting

All settings should have arrangements with regard to the taking and use of images, which is linked to their safeguarding and child protection policy. This should cover the wide range of devices which can be used for taking/recording images e.g. cameras, mobile-phones, smart phones, tablets, web-cams etc. and arrangements for the use of these by both staff, parents and visitors.

Whilst images are regularly used for very positive purposes adults need to be aware of the potential for these to be taken and/or misused or manipulated for pornographic or 'grooming' purposes. Particular regard needs to be given when images are taken of young or vulnerable children who may be unable to question why or how the activities are taking place.

Children who have been previously abused in a manner that involved images may feel particularly threatened by the use of photography, filming etc. Staff should remain sensitive to any child who appears uncomfortable and should recognise the potential for misinterpretation. Making and using images of children will require the age appropriate consent of the individual concerned and their parents/carers. Images should not be displayed on websites, in publications or in a public place without such consent. The definition of a public place includes areas where visitors to the setting have access.

For the protection of children, it is recommended that when using images for publicity purposes that the following guidance should be followed:

- if the image is used, avoid naming the child, (or, as a minimum, use first names rather than

*This means that staff should:*

- adhere to their establishment's policy
- only publish images of children where they and their parent/carer have given explicit written consent to do so
- only take images where the child is happy for them to do so
- only retain images when there is a clear and agreed purpose for doing so
- store images in an appropriate secure place in the school or setting
- ensure that a senior member of staff is aware that the photography/image equipment is being used and for what purpose
- be able to justify images of children in their possession
- avoid making images in one to one situations
- This means that adults should not:
  - take images of children for their personal use
  - display or distribute images of children unless they are sure that they have parental consent to do so (and, where appropriate, consent from the child)
  - take images of children using personal equipment
  - take images of children in a state of undress or semi-undress
  - take images of children which could be considered as indecent or sexual
- read Portfield School's ICT policy
- read Portfield Schools's Acceptable use policy agreement
- read pupil consent for class to ensure pupils have consent



- surnames)
- if the child is named, avoid using their image
- schools and settings should establish whether the image will be retained for further use, where and for how long
- images should be securely stored and used only by those authorised to do so.

## 25. Exposure to inappropriate images

Staff should take extreme care to ensure that children and young people are not exposed, through any medium, to inappropriate or indecent images.

There are no circumstances that will justify adults: making, downloading, possessing or distributing indecent images or pseudo-images of children (child abuse images). Accessing these images, whether using the settings or personal equipment, on or off the premises, or making, storing or disseminating such material is illegal.

If indecent images of children are discovered at the establishment or on the school or setting's equipment an immediate referral should be made to the Local Authority Designated Officer, and the police contacted if relevant. The images/equipment should be secured and there should be no attempt to view or delete the images as this could jeopardise necessary criminal action. If the images are of children known to the school/setting, a referral should also be made to children's social care in line with local arrangements.

Under no circumstances should any adult use school or setting equipment to access pornography. Personal equipment containing pornography or links to it should never be brought into or used in the workplace. This will raise serious concerns about the suitability of the adult to continue working with children and young people.

Staff should keep their passwords confidential and not allow unauthorised access to equipment. In the event of any indecent images of children or unsuitable material being discovered on a device the equipment should not be tampered with in any way. It should be secured and isolated from the network, and the LADO contacted without delay. Adults should not attempt to investigate the matter or evaluate the material themselves as this may lead to a contamination of evidence and a possibility they will be at risk of prosecution themselves.

*This means that staff should:*

- abide by the establishment's acceptable use and e-safety policies
- ensure that children cannot be exposed to indecent or inappropriate images
- ensure that any films or material shown to children are age appropriate
- read Portfield School's ICT/e-safety policy
- read staff code of conduct

## 26. Personal living accommodation including on site provision

Generally, staff should not invite any child into their living accommodation unless the reason to do so has been firmly established and agreed with their manager and the child's parents/carers.

It is not appropriate for staff to be expected or requested to use their private living space for any activity, play or learning. This includes seeing children for e.g. discussion of reports, academic reviews, tutorials, pastoral care or counselling. Managers should ensure that appropriate accommodation for such activities is found elsewhere in the setting.

Under no circumstances should children be asked to assist adults with jobs or tasks, either for or without reward, at or in their private accommodation.

This guidance should also apply to all other persons living in or visiting the private accommodation.

## 27. Overnight supervision and examinations

There are occasions during exam periods when timetables clash and arrangements need to be made to preserve the integrity of the examination process. In these circumstances examination boards may allow candidates to take an examination the following morning, including Saturdays.

The supervision of a candidate on journeys to and from the centre and overnight may be undertaken by the candidate's parent/carer or centre staff.

The examination board requires the centre to determine a method of supervision which ensures the candidate's wellbeing. As a result in some circumstances staff may be asked to volunteer to supervise students perhaps in their own homes.

The overriding consideration should be the safeguarding of both the pupil and staff, therefore many local authorities, professional associations and unions do not endorse the practice of staff supervising candidates overnight in their own homes. Some schools employ alternatives such as a 'sleep-over' on the school premises.

Where arrangements are made for a staff member to supervise a pupil overnight then all necessary

*This means that staff should:*

- be vigilant in maintaining their privacy, including when living in on-site accommodation
- be mindful of the need to avoid placing themselves in vulnerable situations
- refuse any request for their accommodation to be used as an additional resource for the school or setting
- be mindful of the need to maintain appropriate personal and professional boundaries
- not ask pupils to undertake jobs or errands for their personal benefit

*This means that:*

- schools should ensure that all arrangements reflect a duty of care towards pupils and staff

*Where staff do supervise candidates overnight:*

- a full health and safety risk assessment
- should have been undertaken
- all members of the household should have had appropriate vetting including, where eligible, DBS and barred list checks
- all arrangements should be made in partnership and agreement with the pupil and parents/carers
- arrangements involving one to one supervision should be avoided wherever possible.
- as much choice, flexibility and contact with 'the outside world', should be incorporated into any arrangement so far as is consistent with appropriate supervision
- whenever possible, independent oversight of arrangements should be made

safeguards should be in place.

- any situation which gives rise to complaint, disagreement or misunderstanding should be reported
- staff should have regard to any local and national guidance
- read risk assessment for residential visits

## 28. Curriculum / Activity Planning

Many areas of the curriculum/planned activity can include or raise subject matter which is sexually explicit or of a political or sensitive nature. Care should be taken to ensure that resource materials cannot be misinterpreted and clearly relate to the learning outcomes identified by the lesson plan. This can be supported by developing ground rules with children to ensure sensitive topics can be discussed in a safe learning environment. This plan should highlight particular areas of risk and sensitivity and care should especially be taken in those areas of the curriculum where usual boundaries or rules are less rigorously applied e.g. drama.

The curriculum can sometimes include or lead to unplanned discussion about subject matter of a sexually explicit, political or otherwise sensitive nature. Responding to children's questions requires careful judgement and staff should take guidance in these circumstances from the Safeguarding Lead.

Care should be taken to comply with the setting's policy on spiritual, moral, social, cultural (SMSC) which should promote fundamental British values and be rigorously reviewed to ensure it is lawful and consistently applied. Staff should also comply at all times with the policy for sex and relationships education (SRE). It should be noted that parents have the right to withdraw their children from all or part of any sex education provided but not from the National Curriculum for Science.

## 29. Whistleblowing

Whistleblowing is the mechanism by which staff can voice their concerns, made in good faith, without fear of repercussion. The Council has a clear and accessible whistleblowing policy that meets the terms of the Public Interest Disclosure Act 1998. Staff who use whistleblowing procedures should have their employment rights protected.

Staff should recognise their individual responsibilities to bring matters of concern to the attention of senior management and/or relevant external agencies and that to not do so may result in charges of serious neglect on

*This means that staff should:*

- have clear written lesson plans
- take care when encouraging pupils to use self-expression, not to overstep personal and professional boundaries
- be able to justify all curriculum materials and relate these to clearly identifiable lessons plans.

*This means that adults should not:*

- enter into or encourage inappropriate discussions which may offend or harm others
- undermine fundamental British values
- express any prejudicial views
- attempt to influence or impose their personal values, attitudes or beliefs on pupils

*This means that schools and settings should:*

- read Portfield School's Whistleblowing and Child Protection policies
- have a whistleblowing policy in place which is known to all have, as part of their safeguarding and child protection policy, clear procedures for dealing with allegations against persons working in or on behalf of

their part where the welfare of children may be at risk.

the school or setting

*This means that staff should:*

- report any behaviour by colleagues that raises concern
- report allegations against staff and volunteers to their manager, or registered provider, or where they have concerns about the manager's response report these directly to the LADO

### **30. Sharing concerns and recording incidents**

All staff should be aware of the Council's safeguarding procedures, including the procedures for dealing with allegations against staff and volunteers.

In the event of an allegation being made, by any person, or incident being witnessed, the relevant information should be immediately recorded and reported to the Head teacher, senior manager or Designated Safeguarding Lead as appropriate.

Members of staff should feel able to discuss with their line manager any difficulties or problems that may affect their relationship with or behaviour towards children, so that appropriate support can be provided and/or action can be taken.

In order to safeguard and protect children and colleagues, where staff have any concerns about someone who works with children they should immediately report this to the Head teacher, or senior manager in line with the Council's procedures.

*This means that staff should:*

- be familiar with their establishment's arrangements for reporting and recording concerns and allegations
- know how to contact the regulatory body directly if required
- take responsibility for recording any incident, and passing on that information where they have concerns about any matter pertaining to the welfare of an individual in the school or setting

*This means that education settings should:*

- have an effective, confidential system for recording and managing concerns raised by any individual regarding adults' conduct and any allegations against staff and volunteers
- read Portfield School's Whistleblowing and Complaints policies