

SAFEGUARDING POLICY

Xaverian, in line with its Mission Statement and legal requirements, has a duty of care to all members of its community with the overarching aim of providing a safe environment in which all can realise their full potential.

The Safeguarding Policy of Xaverian College is intended to ensure the maintenance and promotion of a learning community that provides a safe and secure environment free of all forms of harassment, abuse and discrimination, providing support and guidance for all community members. Mindful of legal requirements but based on the Gospel values the Safeguarding Policy of Xaverian College is an essential expression of its Mission.

Key Principles

The following principles will underpin the College's approach to safeguarding. This approach will be:

- Student centred
- Proactive in ensuring a learning environment free from all forms of harassment, abuse and discrimination

It aims:

- To ensure that students are safe
- To promote the welfare of our students especially those students who are vulnerable and with high needs
- To foster a culture of trust between the staff who work at the college and the students
- To work with all appropriate agencies to ensure effective partnership working between all those involved with providing safeguarding services for young people
- To provide appropriate support and resources to support community members
- To be rigorous in how we monitor the impact of provision
- To provide training and awareness raising activities as appropriate for all community members
- To have systems and processes in place which allow for poor or unsafe practice to be challenged

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Roles and Responsibilities

We will follow both the national guidance, issued by the Department for Education (Keeping Children Safe in Education – Statutory Guidance for Schools and Further Education Colleges, updated September 2022) and local information provided by the Manchester Safeguarding Children’s Board to:

- Ensure we have a nominated Governor responsible for safeguarding.
- Ensure there is a Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL) for Safeguarding and Child protection, as well as a Deputy, who will provide leadership and management for the safeguarding agenda, and who will regularly update their knowledge and expertise through training and communication with appropriate bodies.
- The College’s Designated Safeguarding Lead is Antony Lyons (emergency contact number: 07970787480) and our Deputy Safeguarding Lead is Sarah Martin (emergency contact number: 07534421938).
- Whilst the activities of the DSL can be delegated to an appropriately trained deputy, the ultimate lead responsibility for safeguarding and child protection, as set out above, remains with the designated safeguarding lead. This responsibility should not be delegated.
- Ensure there is a nominated manager responsible for female welfare.
- Ensure that in the absence of the DSL and the Deputy, there is someone to be responsible for Safeguarding and Child Protection.

The DSL will, in order to raise awareness and support those with safeguarding issues:

- Ensure that every member of staff and the Governing Body knows his/her name and role.
- Ensure that there are effective systems for identifying safeguarding concerns, and that these are communicated to those who need to know and that they receive effective guidance.
- Ensure that all students are made aware of how to raise safeguarding concerns and the support available to them.
- Ensure that the Child Protection Policy and procedures are made available publicly and that parents are aware of the fact that referrals about suspected abuse or neglect may be made and the role of the college in this.

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- Ensure that each member of staff has access to and understands the college’s safeguarding and child protection policies, guidelines and procedures, and that these are applied appropriately.
- Ensure that, as part of induction, all new staff, including temporary and voluntary staff, are made aware of safeguarding issues including issues of confidentiality, child protection, the name of the DSL, what to do if they have concerns about a young person and how to report low level concerns about staff.
- Ensure that all members of staff are familiar with their obligations as outlined in Keeping Children Safe in Education (part 1), updated September 2022, and understand that they are required to read it.
- Link with the local LSCB to make sure that staff are aware of training opportunities and the latest local policies on safeguarding and provide access to refresher training and awareness raising activities to ensure that all staff are aware of their responsibilities in the safeguarding of our students.
- Be alert to the specific needs of looked after children, children in need, those with special educational needs and young carers.
- Ensure staff receive regular safeguarding and child protection updates (for example, via email, e-bulletins, staff meetings) as required, and at least annually, to provide them with relevant skills and knowledge to safeguard children effectively.
- Encourage a culture of listening to children and taking account of their wishes and feelings amongst all staff and in any measures the college may put in place to protect them.
- Being responsive to the needs and wishes of local authority regulations and directives (e.g. student safeguarding risk assessment during the pandemic).

In making referrals and dealing with safeguarding concerns:

- Refer all cases of suspected abuse to the local authority children’s social care.
- All cases of FGM must be referred to the Police immediately by the staff member.
- Refer low level cases which concern a staff member to the Principal, and to the Designated Officer (formerly LADO) for child protection concerns where appropriate.

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- Refer cases where a person is dismissed or left, due to concerns about their risk and/or harm to a child, to the Disclosure and Barring Service.
- Refer cases where a crime may have been committed to the Police.
- If there are concerns that a child may be a potential victim of modern slavery or human trafficking then a referral should be made to the National Referral Mechanism, as soon as possible.
- Liaise with the Principal, Vice Principal of Student Support to refer any suspected involvement in extremist or radicalising activities to Prevent or Channel.
- Liaise with the Principal, Vice Principal to ensure that the college takes active steps to prevent staff and students from being involved or giving support to extremist or radicalising activities.
- Liaise with the Principal to inform them of issues, especially ongoing enquiries under section 47 of the Children Act 1989 and police investigations
- Act as a source of support, advice, and expertise to staff on matters of safety and safeguarding and when deciding whether to make a referral by liaising with relevant agencies
- Maintain and extend effective links with relevant agencies and co-operate as required with enquiries regarding safeguarding matters including the attendance at case conferences and reviews.
- Keep written records of safeguarding and child protection concerns even where there is no need to refer the matter immediately. These records should be on the college's safeguarding software MyConcern, which is fully compliant with the General Data Protection Regulation (2018). Any additional written records shall be locked away from the main student files.
- Where children leave the college, ensure their child protection file is copied for any new school or college as soon as possible but transferred separately from the main pupil file.
- Students must be regularly informed of the college's safeguarding priorities and reminded how to report safeguarding concerns during a national or local lockdown if studying online at home.

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In receiving appropriate training at least every two years:

- Understand the assessment process for providing early help and intervention, for example, through locally agreed common and shared assessment processes such as Early Help Assessments.
- Have a working knowledge of how local authorities conduct a child protection case conference and a child protection review conference and be able to attend and contribute to these effectively when required to do so. He/she may delegate this to a relevant person e.g. Safeguarding Manager, Head of Year, Pastoral Manager, Welfare Officer.

In ensuring safeguarding and child protection procedures are monitored and impact assessed:

- Report termly to the Quality and Standards Committee of the Governing body.
- Ensure the college's child protection policy is reviewed annually and the procedures and implementation are updated and reviewed regularly, and work with governing body regarding this.

Safer Employment

The college recognises that it has a duty of care to ensure the safe employment of staff is robust. Hence:

- Safeguarding issues are raised at interviews.
- All staff have been subject to an enhanced *Disclosure and Barring Service* (DBS) check
- The college complies with all statutory duties to check staff who work with young people as published by the Disclosure and Barring Service launched December 2012
- The college ensures that the required documentation / evidence of academic and vocational qualifications is provided.
- The college will obtain professional and character references before confirming any appointment.

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Managing Allegations against Staff and Principal

We recognise that a student, parents or a colleague may make an allegation against a member of staff if they have:-

- Behaved in a way that has harmed a young person.
- Possibly committed a criminal offence.
- Behaved towards a young person in a way that indicates he / she is unable to work with young people.

Therefore we will:-

- Ensure that if an allegation is made against a member of staff, the Principal, and the DSL will be informed – where this is low level that records are kept, and where it meets threshold that it will be reported to the LADO
- Ensure that where any allegation is made against the Principal, the Chair of Governors is informed.
- Ensure the college's complaints procedures are fully implemented.
- Ensure that the investigation complies with the statutory guidelines Dealing with Allegations of Abuse DfE (October 2012)

Promoting the Welfare of Young People

In our community everyone should be treated with respect and viewed as special in the eyes of God. We will therefore:-

- Seek to establish and maintain an environment where students feel secure, are encouraged to talk, and are listened to.
- Ensure that students know that there are adults in the college whom they can approach if they are worried.
- Include opportunities in the curriculum to highlight personal safety such as health issues and how to stay safe from abuse, with particular emphasis on sexual child-on-child abuse, harassment and violence.
- Maintain a college ethos that promotes a positive, supportive and secure environment and gives students a sense of being valued.
- Promote British Values supporting democracy, the rule of law, individual liberty, and mutual respect and tolerance of those with different faiths and

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beliefs and those without faith, through all college activities, including teaching and learning.

- Deliver Anti-Radicalisation and Anti-Extremism Policy via the Pastoral and RE programmes as well as in the teaching of subject curricula.
- Deliver Anti-Bullying and Anti-Harassment education via the Pastoral programme, with specific focus on sexual abuse and harassment, peer-on-peer.
- Deliver contemporary and contextual safeguarding lessons to make students aware of current issues such as Mental Health, FGM, HBA, Domestic Abuse, CSE, CCE, child-on-child abuse, Sexual harassment, violence and abuse, County Lines, Knife Crime and carrying offensive weapons, Forced Marriages, Radicalisation and Extremism.
- It is essential that children are safeguarded from potentially harmful and inappropriate online material. The college has an IT filtering system to monitor online behaviour.
- Liaise with agencies that can support vulnerable young people, including the Manchester Safeguarding Children’s Board, as well as the equivalents in other local authorities, and those that can provide professional support as required.
- To ensure safety, students are reminded that if they are studying online, whether at college or at home, they must adhere to the IT/Social Media principles outlined in the Student Code of Conduct and College Behaviour for Learning policy. This is also the case during a local or national lockdown due to recent pandemic. Students must be regularly reminded how to report safeguarding concerns.
- Conducting weekly risk assessments on students who are at a greater risk of harm (LACs, CIN, CPP, EHCP, SEND, serious Mental Health difficulties, Young Carers) to ensure they are safe, progressing and achieving.

Monitoring/Reviewing

- College Managers will develop comprehensive and robust internal measures through which they can test whether the commitments in this policy are being met in their area of responsibility.
- The content of the policy will be reviewed bi-annually and revised in the light of changes to statutory obligations.

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LIST OF ACRONYMS

ACRONYM	TERM
CCE	Child Criminal Exploitation
CIN	Child in Need
CPP	Child Protection Plans
CSE	Child Sexual Exploitation
EHCP	Education Health Care Plan
FGM	Female Genital Mutilation
HBA	Honour Based Abuse
LACs	Looked After Children
SEND	Special Educational Needs and Disabilities

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