

Child Protection Policy

Academic Families is committed to creating a safe environment for all children and young people of school age. We recognise our moral and legal obligation to protect children and will ensure that we take all reasonable steps to promote safe practice and to protect children from harm, abuse, and exploitation.

Our Policy is based on the following principles -

- The welfare of children is always the paramount consideration.
- All children have the right to be protected from abuse regardless of their age, culture, disability, gender, language, racial origin, socio-economic status, religious belief and sexual identity.
- Protecting children and young people is the responsibility of everybody.
- All children have a right to express their views on matters affecting them and these views should be taken into account when making decisions in relation to children.

Our Policy

We will -

- Respect and promote the rights, wishes and feelings of children.
- Provide time for children to talk to us and listen to what they say.
- Encourage children to respect and care for others.
- Keep a register of every child involved with Academic Families including relevant medical details and have a contact name and number on record in case of emergencies.
- Respect confidentiality and Data Protection legislation, and only share information or concerns with the people who need to know in order to protect the child.
- Take action to stop any inappropriate verbal or physical behaviour including bullying.

Take all concerns and allegations seriously and respond appropriately in line with these and the child's school's Child Protection Procedures. We will refer and not investigate, as investigation is the responsibility of the child's school.

Encourage Hosts to become involved in the organisation.

Provide Parents, Students and Hosts copies of all guidelines and procedures on their ILP portal.

Encourage Hosts to follow the [GIRFEC](#) and [SHANARRI](#) guidelines.

Recruit, train and supervise those who work (paid and unpaid) using our Procedure for Safer Recruitment.

Review

This Policy will be monitored and reviewed annually or sooner if there is a change in

- legislation or guidance on the protection of children
- Following any issues or concerns raised about the protection of children within Academic Families.

What to do if you are approached by a student wishing to make a disclosure to you

- Listen sympathetically and with care
- Reassure the child that they are not to blame
- Do not show disbelief
- Do not give a guarantee of confidentiality
- Take the allegation seriously
- Affirm the Child's feelings as expressed (don't tell the child how they should feel)
- Avoid being judgmental about the information given by the child

[GIRFEC](#) - [Getting It Right For Every Child](#) - The Wellbeing Indicators for GIRFEC are [SHANARRI](#)

[Safe](#) - protected from abuse, neglect or harm

[Healthy](#) - experiencing the highest standards of physical and mental health, and supported to make healthy, safe choices

[Achieving](#) - receiving support and guidance in their learning – boosting their skills, confidence and self-esteem

[Nurtured](#) - having a nurturing and stimulating place to live and grow

[Active](#) - having opportunities to take part in a wide range of activities – helping them to build a fulfilling and happy future

[Respected](#) - to be given a voice and involved in the decisions that affect their wellbeing

[Responsible](#) - taking an active role within their schools and communities

[Included](#) - getting help and guidance to overcome social, educational, physical and economic inequalities; accepted as full members of the communities in which they live and learn

Child Abuse

It is very important that you are aware of the signs of abuse.

There are 5 types of abuse – physical, emotional, sexual, neglect and bullying. Recognising child abuse is not easy. It is not your responsibility to decide whether or not child abuse has taken place or if a child is at significant risk of harm from someone.

It is your responsibility and duty to report any concerns you may have.

Please read the attached National Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children documentation which highlights the definitions and signs of the 5 different types of abuse.

Who to contact

Roni Jennings, Child Protection Officer (CPO) who will contact the school CPO in accordance with individual School Guidelines.

roni@academicfamilies.com mobile 07532 414191

or

Lorna Clayton, Deputy Child Protection Officer

lorna@academicfamilies.com 07734 849554