Safeguarding Briefing

West Kent and Ashford College takes safeguarding very seriously and have provided an overview for your information and where you can access a range of College policies and resources for further reading.

Safeguarding

Safeguarding is about keeping you and everyone around you safe from potential harm, injury or untoward incidents. Safeguarding takes a proactive approach in identifying risks and threats and how you can mitigate against these threats. Under the umbrella of safeguarding we also look at:

Child Protection….looks at recognising abuse and acting on it.

When there is a suspicion, allegation or disclosure of abuse such as neglect, emotional abuse, physical abuse or sexual abuse this should be reported to the **College's Designated Safeguarding Lead**. If you are concerned that the child (any person up to the age of 18) is in imminent danger of harm you can report your concern directly to Childrens' Social Care Services and/or the police.

Vulnerable Adult Protection

Any person who has reached the age of 18 and:
- is receiving any form of health care
- is receiving a service or participating in an activity which is specifically targeted at people with age related needs, disabilities or prescribed physical or mental health conditions or expectant nursing mothers living in residential care
- age-related needs includes associated with frailty, illness, disability or mental capacity

Online Safety

The use of technology has become a significant component of many safeguarding issues. Child sexual exploitation; radicalisation; sexual predation: technology often provides the platform that facilitates them.

The breadth of issues classified within online safety is considerable, but can be categorised into three areas of risk:
- Content: being exposed to illegal, inappropriate or harmful material; for example pornography, fake news, racist or radical and extremist views;
- Contact: being subjected to harmful online interactions with other users; for example commercial advertising as well as adults posing as children or young adults; and

- Conduct: personal online behaviour that increases the likelihood of, or causes harm; for example making, sending and receiving explicit images, or online bullying.

Preventing Radicalisation: The Prevent Duty and British values

Children are vulnerable to extremist ideology and radicalisation. Similar to protecting children from other forms of harms and abuse, protecting children from the risk is a part of the colleges safeguarding approach.

Extremism is the vocal or active opposition to our fundamental values, also known as British values: democratic, the rule of law, individual liberty and the mutual respect and tolerance of different faiths and beliefs.

Equality, Diversity and Inclusion

We are committed to being an inclusive college, where all feel safe and valued, providing an environment in which our students study and live safely and with dignity. Staff work effectively to foster and develop an atmosphere of respect and understanding where discrimination is not tolerated.

As outlined in the Equality Act 2010 the individual characteristics which are protected by law are:
- Age
- Gender
- Disability
- Race
- Gender Reassignment
- Sexual Orientation
- Marriage and Civil Partnership
- Pregnancy and Maternity
- Religion or Belief

West Kent and Ashford College fulfil the three Equality Duties which apply to the above characteristics by:
- The promotion of equality of opportunity for all
- The elimination of unlawful discrimination for students, staff and other stakeholders through Equality Analysis, of the full range of Curriculum, Student Support and Human Resources Policies, Practices, Plans, Procedures and every day practices
- The fostering of good relations and promotion of positive attitudes between and towards those with a particular characteristic and those without through training materials and resources for staff, students and other stakeholders

College policies can be found under the policies section on the website. Student handbooks can be found under the Student Support section of the website.