

ROEDEAN

CHILD PROTECTION POLICY summary for pupils

Aims

Roedean recognises its responsibility for the safeguarding of the children in its care and its requirement to respond immediately to any aspect of concern relating to a child's safeguarding whether it happens within the school environment and community or outside.

Objectives

The school recognizes that children who are abused or witness violence may find it difficult to develop a sense of self worth. They may feel helplessness, humiliation and some sense of blame. The school may be the only stable, safe and predictable element in their life. When at school their behaviour may be challenging and defiant or they may appear withdrawn. In these instances, the school will endeavour to support the pupil through a variety of methods.

Wider awareness of the Child Protection Policy

The full Child Protection Policy is available to all pupils, parents and staff members, in all roles, both electronically on the Intranet and in hard copy in the School Office.

Child Protection Officer

The Deputy Head, Mrs Sylvia Brett is the current Child Protection Officer (CPO); she is supported by the Head of Boarding, Ms Julie McNair and the Head of Middle School, Mrs Hazel Heron.

It is the Child Protections Officer's job to ensure that the policy is put into practice.

What is Child Abuse?

Child abuse can mean a lot of different things such as neglect, physical, emotional or sexual abuse - it's not always easy to know if you or someone you know is being abused. But the important thing to remember is that no-one has the right to hurt you or make you do anything that feels wrong.

PLEASE REMEMBER - IF YOU OR SOMEONE YOU KNOW IS BEING ABUSED IN ANY WAY, THEN THE MOST IMPORTANT THING TO DO IS TALK TO SOMEONE ABOUT IT.

- *What is emotional abuse?* Emotional abuse is when someone tries to make you feel bad. This can be saying things to scare you, putting you down, embarrassing or humiliating you. This might be on purpose or without realising what they are saying or doing is making you feel bad. If someone is always telling you that you're ugly, or fat, or stupid, or worthless, or that they wish you'd never been born, that's emotional abuse. It's wrong, even if they are not doing it on purpose.

If this is happening to you, you might think that it's your fault. It isn't. No-one has the right to emotionally abuse you. If you speak out about it, there are people who care - they will listen to you and help you.

- *What is physical abuse?* Physical abuse is when someone is hurting you. That could be hurting you with their hands, their feet, or an object - hitting, slapping, punching, pinching, kicking or suffocating you. It could include scalding or burning you or pulling your hair out. If someone makes you swallow something that hurts, or makes you ill, including giving you medicine when you are not ill or do not need it, that's physical abuse too.

If this is happening to you, you might think that it's your fault. It isn't. No-one has the right to hurt you. If you speak out about physical abuse, there are people who care - they will listen to you and help you.

- *What is sexual abuse?* Sexual abuse is when:
 - you're being touched in a way you don't like
 - you're being forced to have sex
 - you're forced to look at sexual pictures or videos
 - you're made to watch someone do something sexual. This can include someone flashing or exposing themselves to you
 - you're made to do something sexual to someone that feels uncomfortable or wrong

If this is happening to you, you might think that it's your fault. It isn't. No-one has the right to sexually abuse you, even your boyfriend or girlfriend. If you speak out about it, there are people who care - they will listen to you and help you.

It doesn't matter who the person is that is making you do these things, they are sexually abusing you. It is possible to be sexually abused by someone you know and love. This does not make what they are doing OK.

- *How do I know if I'm being neglected?* You could be suffering from neglect if:
 - You don't have enough warm clothes or shoes
 - You don't have enough to eat and drink
 - You're left alone for a long time, or left in charge of family without adult help
 - You're forced to sleep somewhere cold or uncomfortable
 - No-one helps you when you're are ill or you've been hurt

If this is happening to you, you might think that it's your fault. It isn't. No-one has the right to neglect you. If you speak out about neglect, there are people who care - they will listen to you and help you.

Who can I talk to?

- The Child Protection Officer (sfb@roedean.co.uk)
- School Counsellor (counsellor@roedean.co.uk)
- Any member of staff
- Childline (0800 1111 or www.childline.org.uk)
- OFSTED: telephone 08456 404040

See the full school Child Protection Policy on the intranet