

# CHILD PROTECTION STATEMENT

May 2016.

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### **1. General Statement**

This document refers to all children accommodated in children's homes operated by Arnfield Care Limited, as well as to all children attending Arnfield Independent School.

Arnfield Care Limited ('the Company') fully recognises its role and responsibilities, as an independent provider of residential care and education for children, for safeguarding and protecting children from abuse and harm.<sup>1</sup>

### **2. Guiding Principles**

The Company is fully committed to the following principles:

- 2.1 That the welfare of the child is paramount<sup>2</sup>.
- 2.2 That the Company will take all reasonable steps to protect children from abuse, harm, discrimination and degrading treatment, and will respect their rights, wishes and feelings<sup>1,3</sup>.
- 2.3 That all disclosures, allegations and suspicions of abuse or unacceptable practice towards children will be taken seriously and will be responded to in an appropriate manner and without undue delay<sup>3</sup>.
- 2.4 That staff, volunteers and students who come into contact with children will be recruited and vetted, and provided with guidance and training in good practice and child protection procedures<sup>4</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Education Act (2002): section 157  
 Children Act (2004) section 11  
 Working Together to Safeguard Children (March 2015): chapter 2, paragraphs 2 and 43.

<sup>2</sup> Children Act (1989): section 1

<sup>3</sup> Children's Homes (England) Regulations 2015: regulations 6, 7, 12 & 34  
 UN Convention on the Rights of the Child 1989

<sup>4</sup> Children's Homes (England) Regulations 2015: Regulation 34  
 Keeping Children Safe in Education (2015)

### **3. Scope of the Policy**

This, and other Company policies apply to all Directors, staff (including all full-time and part-time employees, relief and sessional workers), volunteers (including independent visitors, students on placement, and prospective employees spending time on Company premises) who may be working at Arnfield Tower Activity Centre, Greenfield House, Arnfield Independent School, or in any other premises, location or vehicle being used by the Company for the purposes of providing care or education to children.

### **4. Organisational Responsibilities**

The Company will follow the procedures set out by the Local Safeguarding Children Board,<sup>5</sup> and will take account of relevant statutory guidance issued by the Department for Education (DfE), the Department of Health (DH) and the Office for Standards in Education (Ofsted) to:

- 4.1 Have senior managers who are fully committed to children's health, welfare and safety.
- 4.2 Be clear about the responsibility of all staff, volunteers and students to safeguard and promote children's welfare.
- 4.3 Check that there are no known reasons of information available that would prevent staff, volunteers and students from working with children.
- 4.4 Have procedures to deal with allegations of abuse against members of staff, volunteers and students.
- 4.5 Ensure that staff are provided with appropriate training and development opportunities to help them do their job well
- 4.6 Have procedures about how to safeguard and promote the welfare of children and young people.
- 4.7 Have agreements about working with other organizations.

### **5. Infrastructure and governance.**

To fulfil its commitment to safeguard and promote the welfare of children, the Company will have in place:

- 5.1 Clear policies for safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children, including an effective complaints procedure.
- 5.2 A clear commitment by senior management to the importance of safeguarding and promoting children's welfare through the provision of services.
- 5.3 A culture of listening to and engaging in dialogue with children - seeking their views in ways appropriate to their age and understanding, and taking account of these - both in individual discussions and in the planning, establishment, development and improvement of services.
- 5.4 A clear line of accountability and governance for the provision of services that safeguard and promote the welfare of children.

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<sup>5</sup> Derbyshire Safeguarding Children Board: Safeguarding Children Procedures (2016)

- 5.5 Recruitment and human resource and management procedures, including contractual agreements, which take account of the need to safeguard and promote the welfare of children.
- 5.6 Arrangements for appropriate checks on staff, volunteers and students, and the application of best practice in the recruitment of new staff and volunteers.
- 5.7 A clear understanding of how to work together to help children to stay safe online, by being adequately equipped to understand, identify and mitigate the risks of new technology.
- 5.8 Procedures for dealing with allegations of abuse against members of staff, volunteers and students.
- 5.9 Arrangements to ensure that all staff, volunteers and students undertake appropriate training to equip them to carry out their responsibilities effectively, and arrangements to ensure that refresher training is provided at appropriate intervals.
- 5.10 Arrangements to ensure that all staff, volunteers and students are made aware of the Company's arrangements for, and their responsibility for safeguarding children.
- 5.11 Arrangements to work and communicate effectively with other organizations to safeguard and promote the welfare of children, including arrangements for the sharing of information.<sup>6</sup>
- 5.12 Appropriate whistle-blowing procedures and a culture that enables issues about safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children to be addressed.

## **6. Monitoring and Review**

This policy, and other Company policies, procedures and guidance relating to child abuse and the safeguarding and promotion of children's welfare, will be closely monitored. They will be reviewed annually, or whenever there is a change in relevant legislation or statutory guidance. Any amendments will be approved by the Head of Care on behalf of the Company.

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### Relevant legislation and guidance, and organizational information:

*UN Convention on the Rights of the Child (1989)*  
*Children Act 1989*  
*Public Interest Disclosure Act 1998*  
*Education Act 2002: section 157*  
*Children Act 2004: sections 11 and 12*  
*Education (Independent Schools Standards) Regulations 2014*  
*'Keeping Children Safe in Education': DfE. (March 2015)*  
*Derbyshire Safeguarding Children Board: Child Protection Procedures (2016)*  
*Children's Homes (England) Regulations 2015*  
*'Guide to the Children's Homes Regulations including the Quality Standards' DfE (April 2015).*  
*Working Together to Safeguard Children (2015)*  
*Information Sharing: Guidance for Practitioners and Managers (2015)*  
*Derby and Derbyshire Safeguarding Children Board: Child Protection Procedures (2016)*

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<sup>6</sup> Information Sharing: Guidance for Practitioners and Managers (March 2015)  
Working Together to Safeguard Children (March 2015): chapter 1, paragraph 43.