

## **POLICY FOR PUPILS ON CONFIDENTIALITY ISSUES**

(part of SAFEGUARDING & WELFARE policy suite)

At Polam Hall all students are encouraged to share their worries and concerns and to seek any help or guidance they may need. We want all our pupils to know that this is a supportive community and there is always someone to listen, and someone who will be able to help.

### **WHAT CAN YOU DO IF YOU ARE WORRIED ABOUT YOURSELF OR A FRIEND?**

Although it may be difficult, it is important to talk to somebody:

- Talk initially to someone whom you trust.
- If you are worried about a friend, encourage them to talk to someone.
- If you are worried about a friend, you too can talk to someone on their behalf.

### **WHO CAN YOU TALK TO IN SCHOOL?**

The short answer is anyone. Often people choose to speak to the School Nurse, a member of the boarding staff, the Independent Listener, a Form or Personal Tutor, a Subject Teacher or a Peer Mentor. Any choice is fine. The important thing is that you talk to someone whom you trust, and who will listen to you.

Miss Green is the School's Child Protection Officer. Mrs Foster, Mrs Davison and Mrs Hardy are all deputy Child Protection Officers. You can see any of these people at any time if you feel you need to do so because you think someone is unsafe. You should speak to one of them as soon as possible if you think that any kind of child abuse is taking place, even if it is outside school.

### **WANT TO TALK TO SOMEONE OUTSIDE OF SCHOOL?**

- The Safeguarding Officer for Darlington can be contacted on 01325 346750
- ChildLine is a free confidential helpline for children and young people. You can call any time on 0800 11 11, or look at their website at [www.childline.org.uk](http://www.childline.org.uk)
- **In an emergency, call the Police on Telephone 999**
- The NSPCC have a contact line on 0808 800 5000 for children and young people. Their web site is [www.nspcc.org.uk/kidszone](http://www.nspcc.org.uk/kidszone).
- Kidscape has helpful advice on [www.kidscape.org.uk](http://www.kidscape.org.uk)
- Another helpful web site is [www.worriedneed2talk.org.uk](http://www.worriedneed2talk.org.uk)
- The Samaritans can be called at any time on 08457 909090

### **WHAT HAPPENS NEXT?**

Whoever you choose to talk to in school will take you seriously, but won't ask too many questions. We have to be careful to get the right people, who are experienced in keeping children safe to come and help you. We have to ask experts to advise you. We will work to keep you safe; but you may also need professional support from a Specialist. We promise to do all we can to ensure that the other parts of your life are not disrupted more than is necessary.

**Please remember no teacher is allowed to keep this type of information to themselves.** They have to pass it on, so that help can be obtained. However, only those who need to know will be told. We will explain this at the time and tell you who has to be told and the reason. We will suggest that you talk to them yourself.

**REMEMBER** – All children have the right to feel safe. Please help us to help you.

Last reviewed: October 2009

Next review: October 2010

