

## **Safeguarding and Child Protection Policy** **(abridged version for homestay providers)**

St Giles International Brighton is committed to a practice which protects children from harm. This includes both Safeguarding and Child Protection and is of paramount importance in our organization.

### **Safeguarding is:**

- the school's duty of care to look after children and help them to achieve their potential
- concerned with strengthening relationships of trust between under 18s and adults
- ensuring safe systems are in place for the well-being of under 18s

### **Child protection**

- involves protection from the threat of direct harm
- is concerned with abuse that includes neglect, sexual, physical, or psychological and emotional abuse
- involves procedures for dealing with abuse when it arises

For the purposes of this policy a child is defined as a person under the age of 18.

Adults in this organization, including homestay providers, accept and recognise our responsibilities to develop awareness of issues which cause children and young people harm. Adults must be aware and vigilant and must report any concerns to the Designated Persons at St Giles Brighton mentioned below.

This policy is for all children in our care, regardless of their nationality, race or gender. They all have an equal entitlement to be protected.

The full policy is given to all staff and to homestay providers accommodating children. It is available on our website [www.stgiles-international.com](http://www.stgiles-international.com).

St Giles Brighton has a Designated Safeguarding Person (DSP). The identity of the Designated Safeguarding Person is advertised around the school and is made known to all students on their arrival. The DSP meets newly-arrived under-18s during their first week and is their point of contact for day to day matters throughout their course. The DSP is currently Carla Argiolas, who is based in the Accommodation and Welfare Office on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor at St Giles Brighton. She can be reached on 400 on the St Giles internal phone network or on 01273 671746 from outside the school. Outside of office hours they can be reached via the St Giles Emergency Phone on 07816 414660. The DSP has received Level 2 Child Protection training.

The Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL) is Niall Chafey, the Principal, who has overall responsibility for training and will be involved with any major decisions relating to child protection. The DSL will liaise when necessary with the Local Child Safeguarding Board. The DSL has received Level 3 Child Protection training. He can be reached on 218 on the St Giles internal phone network or on 07879 033142. In the DSL's absence, the Director of Studies, Nicky Gamble, will take on the responsibility of reporting concerns to the appropriate authorities. She can be reached on 204 on the St Giles internal phone network or via the St Giles Emergency Phone on 07816 414660.

If any student, homestay provider or staff member has any concerns about the welfare of any child, this should be reported to one of the DSP or to the DSL.

It is the policy of St Giles International to safeguard the welfare of all children by protecting them from all forms of abuse including physical, emotional and sexual harm.

Students under the age of 18 who do not form part of a group and are not accompanied by an adult family member or guardian are only permitted to be accommodated in homestay accommodation. There is a curfew in place for students who are under the age of 18, 11 pm Sunday to Thursday and 12 am on Friday and Saturday. The main care provider in all homestays accommodating under-18s is DBS checked. In cases where a child does not return before the curfew begins, the homestay should phone the child to ensure they are safe and should inform the school the next day. If the homestay provider is unable to contact the child, they should phone the St Giles emergency phone on 07816 414660. The emergency phone holder will continue to attempt to make contact with the child and if necessary will inform the Police.

This organisation is committed to creating a safe environment in which young people can feel comfortable and secure while engaged in any of St Giles' programmes. Staff and homestay providers should at all times show respect and understanding for the individual's rights, safety and welfare, and conduct themselves appropriately. A detailed Code of Conduct forms part of the full Safeguarding and Child Protection policy.

Homestay providers for children must be particularly careful to ensure that children enjoy privacy in the bathroom and bedroom whilst they are in their care. All bathrooms should be fitted with a lock that can only be activated from inside the bathroom and windows or glazing in doors must allow for complete privacy. Adults should knock before opening the door to the bedroom of any child in their care and should not enter the child's bedroom unless in an emergency.

The school meets its Child Protection responsibilities by making all staff and homestay providers aware of their responsibilities, having nominated people available to consult at all times, making staff and homestay providers aware of different child protection scenarios, training them in recognizing symptoms of abuse, and offering guidance on how to respond to any allegation.

Child Abuse is a term to describe a range of ways in which people harm children. Often the person is known and trusted by the child. All children without exception have the right to protection from abuse regardless of gender, ethnicity, disability, sexuality or beliefs.

Child abuse is defined as, neglect, physical injury, sexual abuse or emotional abuse inflicted or knowingly not prevented, which causes significant harm or death. (NSPCC 1999). The full policy gives guidance on how to spot possible signs of abuse in a child.

**It is not only the duty of homestay providers but a legal requirement to disclose cases of abuse or allegations of abuse to the Designated Safeguarding Person or the Principal in his capacity of Designated Safeguarding Lead without delay. It is NOT for the homestay provider to decide whether or not a suspicion or allegation is true. All suspicions or allegations of abuse must be taken seriously.**

**If a homestay provider has suspicions, they should contact the Designated Safeguarding Person or the Principal in confidence. If a child or young person starts to talk to the homestay provider directly, they should allow that person to disclose and should allow them to continue talking following the guidelines in the full policy. They should then contact the Designated Safeguarding Person or the Principal in confidence. Alternatively, a homestay provider can contact the Brighton & Hove Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH) directly on 01273 290400.**

There is detailed guidance on the procedure for reporting an allegation or suspicion of abuse in the full policy document.

Niall Chafey, Designated Safeguarding Lead, March 2015



## Safeguarding Declaration

Please complete and return this declaration form once you have read the St Giles safeguarding policy.

I confirm that I have read the St Giles safeguarding policy and understand my obligation to abide by it and to report any concerns to the Designated Safeguarding Officer at St Giles.

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_