

SAFEGUARDING

Smith's Wood Academy is committed to the highest standards prioritising above all else the protection of the children entrusted to our care.

What will we do if we have a concern about your child?

If we are concerned that your child may be at risk of abuse or neglect we must follow the procedures in our Safeguarding and Child Protection Policy. A copy of this can be found on our web site.

The procedures have been written to protect all students; they comply with our statutory responsibilities and are designed to support students, families and staff. The procedures are based on the principle that the welfare of the child is the most important consideration.

In almost all circumstances, we will speak to you about our concerns as well as inform you if we feel we must refer our concerns to the Children's Social Care Team. We will request your consent to put forward a referral, but in some circumstances we may need to make the referral against your wishes. We will only do this if we genuinely believe that this is the best way

to protect your child, and it will be recorded that you did not provide consent for the referral. If we determine that contacting you in the first instance may jeopardize the situation, we will report our concerns to the Children's Social Care Team and await further advice. We will normally tell you that a referral is being made and will record the reasons why we decided to follow this course of action.

All child protection records are kept securely and filed separately from your child's general school file. The only staff that have access to these records are those who need to be informed about the concerns in order to protect and support your child.

Child protection is an extremely sensitive issue; it raises many questions and a range of strong emotions. We will ensure we do everything we possibly can to support our students and would like to assure you that any action taken will be in the best interests of your child.

Mrs Phillipa Brookes
Senior DSL (Designated
Safeguarding Lead) at
Smith's Wood Academy



If you wish to share any concerns with the Safeguarding Team please email safeguarding@smithswood.fmat.co.uk, alternatively please call **0121 788 4100** and follow the recorded options.

Students are encouraged to develop a culture of 'Tell someone'. All Academy staff are trained to recognise and respond to reports of abuse or neglect.