

Policy



Boarders' Safeguarding Policy

*Nurturing today's young people,
Inspiring tomorrow's exemplary*



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Document Control

Date of Last Review	MARCH 2020
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Reviewed By	Mr Siraj Madari (DSL)
Approved by	Chair of Governors' & Trust Board
Review Period	1 Year
Version	1
Date of Next Review	MARCH 2021

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SECTION 1 – BOARDING AND THE CHILDREN'S ACT

AJI recognises that, under the terms of Section 87 of The Children's Act (1989);

'Welfare of children accommodated in independent schools – the school has a statutory duty to safeguard and promote a child's welfare by ensuring protection against significant harm or neglect'.

This statutory duty of care is geared to the individual child, not to the majority, and recognises each child's right to live his or her life free from abuse of any type. Every child in the Boarding Facilities has the right to develop academically, socially, morally and culturally in an atmosphere of encouragement and trust. The school further recognises that all pupils are equal participants deserving of equal opportunities, and care should be taken not to allow the majority to fade into the background by devoting 80% of time to 20% of the pupils.

The school also understands that the Local Authority Social Services Department must take such steps as are necessary to determine whether this duty of care to the individual is being carried out.

The Act applies to all children who are accommodated at school, not just the boarders who are ordinarily resident. However, it is understood that the Boarding Managers who observe and interact with the children during non-school hours, may be in a unique position to get to know those children extremely well and spot possible signs of harm, neglect or potential radicalisation.

It is worth noting that this duty of care extends to visiting children, since it is the school that is doing the accommodating for that period of time.

SECTION 2 – CHILD PROTECTION

The boarding staff will follow guidance from the *School's Safeguarding and Child Protection Policy*. This Statement of Intent is taken from that Policy:

"The safety and welfare of all our pupils at AJI is our highest priority. Our business is to know everyone as an individual and to provide a secure and caring environment so that every pupil can learn in safety. In all matters relating to child protection the school will follow the procedures laid down by our own (or where appropriate

the relevant child's) Local Safeguarding Children Board (LSCB) which is the Bolton Safeguarding Board (BSB) in accordance with locally agreed interagency procedures together with DfE guidance contained in Working Together to Safeguard Children (2018) and Keeping Children Safe in Education (KCSIE) (September 2019)

Incorporating Disqualification under the Childcare Act and The Counter-Terrorism and Security Act 2015 (The Prevent Duty) www.gov.uk/government/publications/keeping-children-safe-in-education".

The school's usual procedures, described in its *Safeguarding and Child Protection Policy*, with regard to becoming aware of an allegation of abuse, or dealing with concerns about a child, will be followed when there are concerns about boarders. The Boarding Managers receive Level 3 training in Safeguarding in order to be aware of signs of abuse or radicalisation. Any concerns that staff hold about the safety and welfare of a pupil will, in the vast majority of cases, be discussed with Mr Siraj Madari, the Designated Safeguarding Lead, with the protection of the child being the overriding concern in all case.

Keeping Children Safe In Education notes that children can be particularly vulnerable in residential settings, therefore we actively promote the development of co-operative, mutual respectful and supportive relationships between boarders, and between boarders and staff. The staff are available to boarders at all times and an Independent Listener from outside the school setting is also available. Boarders are advised during the Boarders' Induction process of where they can seek help, and information is posted on noticeboards around the house.

Staff must be routinely vigilant in supervising inter-personal relationships within the boarding house but should never intrude into individual relationships unless there is material cause for concern, with any such approach being made confidentially and discreetly.

Staff must be vigilant and aware at all times where relationships may deteriorate and that within the boarding environment there exists the potential for abuse by peers. This can particularly be the case "behind closed doors" in dormitories. Staff maintain an active presence and all boarders discuss and sign the Boarders' Code of Conduct which emphasises the importance of caring for one another. Pupils are actively encouraged to talk to the staff about their concerns.

SECTION 3 – SAFER RECRUITMENT

All residential staff are subject to the school's usual safer recruitment procedures, which are set out in the school Recruitment, Selection and Disclosures Policy. All adults who come into contact with the children are subject to an enhanced DBS check. In the case of any visitors to the boarding house, such as external providers for activities, the Visiting Speakers form will be submitted to the DSL and the visitor will be chaperoned at all times by a member of staff. There are currently no persons over 16 not employed by the

school but living in the same premises as children. However, staff are aware of the need to assess and comply with safeguarding regulations should that situation change.

SECTION 4 – PHYSICAL RESTRAINT

The Act addresses the question of physical restraint. In the very rare cases where this may prove necessary, AJI's policy is as follows:

A member of staff of a school may use, in relation to any pupil at the school, such force as is reasonable in the circumstances for the purposes of preventing the pupil from doing (or continuing to do) any of the following: causing personal injury to, or damage to the property of, any person (including the pupil himself), or engaging in any behaviour prejudicial to the maintenance of good order and discipline at the school or among any of its pupils, whether that behaviour occurs during a formal teaching session or otherwise. See *Physical Restraints Policy*.

SECTION 5 – BULLYING

The boarding staff will follow guidance from the *School's Anti-Bullying Policy*. Bullying in any of its many guises is forbidden and staff must act promptly against it.

Signs of bullying which may be particular to the boarding house are:

- difficulty concentrating during prep.
- not wanting to stay at school.
- social isolation or avoiding particular pupils.
- the desire to remain with adult.

Every member of staff must be an active presence in the boarding facilities and make sure that bedrooms, common rooms and other areas of the building are monitored. If bullying is suspected the member of staff must intervene, listen carefully to reports, record any incidents and offer support to the victim. Bullying is a serious offence and in most cases the incident will be referred to the SLT. Further guidance can be found in the *Anti-Bullying Policy*.

SECTION 6 – COUNSELLING

The Boarding Managers should be the first line of recourse and defence for all the boarders. However, in some situations, a distressed boarder might find it difficult to seek help, in which case a discussion with the

School Counsellor might be recommended.