



COMMITMENT TO SAFEGUARDING STUDENTS

Under the UK Education Act 2002 (section 175/157), schools must “make arrangements to safeguard and promote the welfare of children”. We will endeavour to provide a safe and welcoming environment where our students are respected and valued.

CATS Cambridge will therefore be alert to signs of abuse and neglect and will follow the Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Safeguarding Children Partnership Board’s procedures to ensure that our students receive appropriate and effective support and protection. We will work with Children’s Social Care and other external agencies to do this.

Our priority is the safety and welfare of the young people in our care. Parents, carers and agents should know that college staff have a legal duty to share information if they are concerned about the welfare of a young person, including risk from all types of abuse. Parents and carers should know that records of safeguarding concerns may be kept about their child. These are distinct from other reports and are kept with a view to promoting the best outcomes for each individual student.

The College will usually seek consent from an adult with parental responsibility for a student before passing information to Children’s Social Care. However, local procedures allow CATS college staff to share information with Children’s Social Care without consent if seeking consent or not sharing information would place the child at risk of (further) significant harm.

Where there is a need to share special category personal data, the UK Data Protection Act 2018 contains ‘safeguarding of children and individuals at risk’ as a processing condition that allows professionals to share information. In accordance with UK legislation and local Information Sharing protocols, we will ensure that information is shared securely and sensitively. Information will only be shared with other services where it is deemed necessary and proportionate to ensure that children and young people are safe and receive the right service. In all circumstances, the safety of the child will be the paramount concern.

Member(s) of staff at CATS Cambridge with responsibility for child protection (known as the Designated Safeguarding Lead and Deputy Designated Safeguarding Leads) carry out their responsibilities in the best interests of all children and in accordance with UK law. They will contact Children’s Social Care when they have reasonable cause to suspect a child may be suffering or likely to suffer significant harm. Occasionally, concerns are passed on which are later shown to be unfounded and safeguarding records will show this.

Under Section 3 (5) of the UK Children Act 1989, any person who has care of a child “may....do what is reasonable in all the circumstances of the case for the purpose of safeguarding promoting the child’s welfare”. This means that on rare occasions, it may be necessary for a student to remain in college whilst Social Care and the Police investigate any concerns further.