



John Buchan School

Confidentiality Policy to Promote Emotional Health and Well Being.

Introduction:

John Buchan School recognises that good health and wellbeing is the foundation for social, emotional and educational development. In practice this enables students to achieve, form supportive relationships and move successfully into adult and working life.

School can play a vital role in supporting students experiencing problems and intervene effectively through a range of strategies.

John Buchan School aims to promote emotional health and well being through its curriculum and student experiences of whole school life.

However, the school recognises that certain factors can have an effect on students' emotional health and well being and will provide opportunities for students to develop self-esteem, self confidence and a belief in one's own ability to cope with change.

Aims:

- To underpin the school's ethos and support students best interests
- To enable students to seek appropriate help or counseling in confidence through...
 - Special Educational Needs Support via the school SENCO and the Learning Support Department
 - Pastoral support through the pastoral team of Form Tutors, Year Progress Leaders
 - Support from ELSA trained TAs
 - Home-School links with the school and families working in partnership
 - Counseling via Pupil and Family Services (PFS)
 - Peer support as appropriate
- To ensure an understanding and respect for privacy and confidentiality where appropriate.
- To reassure parents that the school is acting in the best interests of their child and that their parental role is being respected.

Procedures:

A student may access the above support via :

- Self-referral to a ELSA
- Referral from a member of staff
- Referral from peers
- Referral from home

All referrals to be coordinated and monitored by A Drakeford (Designated Child Safe Guarding Coordinator)

Confidentiality:

At John Buchan School we believe that the safety well-being and protection of our students are the paramount consideration in all decisions staff make about confidentiality. The appropriate sharing of information between school staff is an essential element in ensuring our students' well-being and safety

School staff are **not** obliged to break confidentiality except where child safeguarding is or may be an issue. Professional judgment is required when deciding if a disclosure made in confidence can be maintained by considering the best interests of the student.

At John Buchan School we offer students the support of a mentor from the staff, the PFS and the school nursing service with appointments accessed discreetly through the DHT or SENCo. These services are confidential between the mentor or health professional (following the Fraser Guidelines) and the individual student. No information is shared with third parties including parents and carers except as necessitated by child safeguarding. This is essential to maintain the trust needed for these services to meet the needs of our students.

John Buchan School believes it is essential to work in partnership with parents and carers and we endeavour to keep parents informed of their child's progress at school, including any concerns. However, we need to maintain a balance so students can share any concerns and ask for help when they need it. Where a student does discuss a personal matter at school they will always be encouraged to discuss the matter with their parents or carers.

The safety, well-being and protection of our students are the paramount considerations in all decisions staff at the school make about confidentiality.

Links:

This policy should be used in conjunction with the school's policies on

- Learning Development and Student Support
- Sex and Relationships Education
- Child Safeguarding
- Anti Bullying
- Behaviour Support

Policy reviewed by AD(DHT)

Date Policy reviewed: October 2014

Next Policy review: October 2015