Safeguarding Child and Vulnerable Adult Policy

Title:	**Safeguarding Child and Vulnerable Adult Policy**	
Document owner:	Head of Student Experience and Inclusion	
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Version	Author	Date	Section	Changes summary
1	Julie Atkins	November 2023	All	Updates to represent the Prevent duty guidance update
2	A. Campell	July 2024		Updates from KCSIE 2024
3	A. Campell	Sept 2025	All	Updates from KCSIE 2025 **Craven College Commitment** – Addition of AI generated material to the online safeguarding comment
4	Julie Atkins/W McGlinchey	October.2026	All	Changes based on the new template. Refreshed content to be more user friendly. KCSiE 2026 update.

Purpose of the policy

Craven College is committed to providing a safe and nurturing environment for all students. This policy forms part of that commitment and sets out our approach to compliance with statutory guidance on safeguarding children and vulnerable adults.

The College recognises that a safe and nurturing environment is a key factor in the successful delivery of high-quality teaching and learning. Our students share the same risk of becoming victims, or perpetrators, of harm as the wider community; we will take all reasonable steps to minimise that risk and to provide effective support to our students.

There are six key principles of safeguarding, and these will be applied to our work in College:

1. **Empowerment -** people are supported and encouraged to make their own decisions and give informed consent.
2. **Prevention -** it is better to take action before harm occurs.
3. **Proportionality -** the least intrusive response appropriate to the risk presented.
4. **Protection -** support and representation for those in greatest need.
5. **Partnership -** local solutions through services working with their communities – communities have a part to play in preventing, detecting and reporting neglect and abuse.
6. **Accountability -** accountability and transparency in safeguarding practice.

This policy applies to all students and apprentices; all staff; governors; volunteers; agency and supply staff; contractors; visitors; employers providing work experience or apprenticeship placements; and any person or organisation acting for or on behalf of Craven College. It applies at all College sites, during off-site and online learning, on work placements, during educational visits and whenever College duties are being carried out

The College will:

- **Acknowledge** that safeguarding is the responsibility of every staff member and provide appropriate guidance, training and support to enable everyone to discharge that responsibility effectively.
- **Respond swiftly and appropriately** to all suspicions or allegations of harm and abuse and provide students, parents/carers and advocates with the opportunity to voice their concerns.
- **Ensure there are opportunities** for students to recognise when they are at risk and that they know how to get help when they need it.
- Ensure that its staff and others working with students for, or on behalf of college, **comply with our statutory duties** in relation to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and vulnerable adults.
- Have a **clear procedure for dealing with concerns** about possible harm and support those who may have been abused or who are at risk of harm.
- **Acknowledge the wider environmental factors** in a student's life which may be a threat to their safety and welfare known as contextual safeguarding. Awareness of contextual safeguarding issues is addressed in the tutorial programme.
- Endeavour to ensure that staff and others who engage with students for or on behalf of college are recruited well and **suitably trained**, which includes distinguishing between levels of concern and harm and knowing how to report a concern.
- **Maintain good links** with the local Safeguarding Partnerships, and the appropriate child and vulnerable adult services.

Staff/Student Relationships

Staff must not put themselves in a position where their behaviour could be overstepping appropriate professional boundaries, and/or risk triggering complaints of unacceptable behaviour or a conflict of interest, even where such an outcome was not intended.

It is expressly forbidden for staff to engage in any romantic, sexual, or intimate relationship with any student including adult students and learners of any age, both full and/or part time. Any personal relationships of an intimate/sexual nature between staff and students, who are under 18, is an offence under section 15 of The Sexual Offences Act 2003, even if the relationship is consensual. All such relationships are a breach of the staff code of conduct.

Linked policies

- Data Protection Policy
- Equality, Diversity and Inclusion Policy
- Recruitment and Selection Policy
- Student Positive Behaviour Policy
- Attendance Policy
- Health and Safety Policies
- Admissions Policy
- Freedom of Speech Policy and Code of Practice
- Whistleblowing Policy
- Sexual Harassment Misconduct and Sexual Violence Policy
- Staff Code of Conduct

Linked procedures

- Child and Vulnerable Adult Protection Safeguarding Procedures
- Sexual Harassment Misconduct and Sexual Violence Procedure
- Student Disciplinary Procedure