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## Quality Assurance Policies & Procedures

### SAFEGUARDING AND PREVENT POLICY

#### CHILD AND VULNERABLE ADULT PROTECTION

## Appendix N

### Mental Health

The College promotes the mental health and wellbeing of staff and students. Students are encouraged to seek support from tutors and Student Success Coaches, and the tutorial programme includes opportunities to develop wellbeing, resilience and awareness of how to access help.

All staff should be aware that mental health problems can, in some cases, be an indicator that a child has suffered, or is at risk of suffering, abuse, neglect or exploitation. Staff are well placed to observe changes in behaviour, attendance, presentation or relationships that may indicate a concern. Only appropriately trained professionals should diagnose mental health conditions; staff should identify, record and report concerns in accordance with the College's safeguarding procedures.

Where a mental health concern is also a safeguarding concern, staff must act immediately, follow the College's Child Protection Policy and report the concern without delay to the Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL) or a deputy. The response should be child-centred, consider what is in the child's best interests and include appropriate information sharing and referral to other agencies where required.

Concerns, decisions, actions taken and outcomes must be recorded clearly and promptly. If a child is in immediate danger or at risk of significant harm, staff should contact the emergency services and/or children's social care in line with College procedures, while informing the DSL as soon as possible. Safeguarding action should be coordinated with suitable pastoral or mental health support; support must not delay a safeguarding referral.

See QAP 3.17 Student Positive Mental Health and Wellbeing Policy.