

## S4SK and H4SS Child Safeguarding Policy

### **General principles**

All staff, voluntary and paid, and trustees must adhere to the policy and guidelines. Failure to do so could have implications for the children and families we serve, and for the reputations of Scholarships for Street Kids (S4SK) and Hope for Shining Stars (H4SS) as providers of services to children and young people.

The aim of the policy is to ensure that the children we serve have safe home and learning environments, and that S4SK and H4SS have in place procedures to provide a speedy and effective response for dealing with concerns about risks to children. Within this policy a child is defined as anyone who is under the age of 18.

This document constitutes the policy for S4SK and summarises that of H4SS which, however, has its own policy document with more detail in respect of reporting, responsible persons and child-safe recruitment of staff. H4SS staff benefit from safeguarding training provided by Save the Children.

### **General**

S4SK recognises that child welfare is paramount, that all children, regardless of gender, ethnicity, disability, sexuality or beliefs have the right to be protected from abuse, and to be able to learn in a safe environment which encourages mutual respect. Through regular monitoring of H4SS classes, S4SK will endeavour to ensure that all the classes and institutions we fund are safe environments for children, and will take all allegations of abuse against a child seriously.

### **Procedures following allegation or suspicion of child abuse**

You might have reason to believe or suspect that a child is subject to emotional, physical, sexual abuse or neglect. If an allegation of abuse is made by a child or a third party, you will:

- make a note of the time and date that the allegation was made, who made the allegation, and the nature of the allegation;
- record only the facts;
- immediately report the allegation, either in person or through the safeguarding complaints form on the website, to a mentor or other senior staff (for H4SS), and Dr John McConnell (Managing

Trustee) or the designated trustee with special responsibility for safeguarding (for S4SK).

### **Protecting children from abuse and staff / volunteers from allegations of abuse**

No member of the S4SK or H4SS staff will:

- make any comments with sexual overtones, even in humour, or partake in any "horse play" with a child;
- engage in rough physical games – apart from structured class or sports activities which may be part of a class or community event etc.;
- engage in sexually provocative games;
- allow or engage in inappropriate touching in any form;
- allow children to use inappropriate language unchallenged;
- make sexually suggestive comments about or to a child, even in fun;
- let allegations a child makes go uninvestigated or unrecorded.

### **Implementation**

Both H4SS and S4SK will have contact persons (mentors and senior staff for H4SS and a designated trustee for S4SK) with whom safeguarding concerns may be raised. The designated officer/trustee will have the responsibility to raise concerns with the governing body of the appropriate organisation (the Advisory Board and Programme Director for H4SS and the Board of Trustees for S4SK). Contact details will be disseminated to the appropriate constituencies (parents, NFEC members and local officials for H4SS, and H4SS staff for S4SK). Complaints will be followed up promptly and any necessary action taken to ensure the safety of the children in our care.

Where there is serious concern of wrongdoing the appropriate authorities will be informed and a record kept.

### **Regular review of policies and procedures**

S4SK's child protection policies and procedures will be reviewed annually. Necessary changes that are identified in the interim period, as a result of amendment to legislation or local children and families procedures, will be made as required.