



CHILD IN CRISIS POLICY

Introduction

This policy has been developed for the benefit of the company, it is part of our safeguarding policy and procedure and forms part our behaviour policy going forward. It should be read in conjunction with documentation on safeguarding, bullying and harassment and complaints procedures. This document is for general reference but it is critical that all staff who work in our intervention services read this document and that it forms a part of their daily working knowledge.

Definition

The definition for the purposes of this document, of a child in crisis is this;

That a child has reacted inappropriately and severely to a situation that does not warrant that response. This could be indicated by violence, anger, bad language, running or otherwise exiting the area, demonstrating poor judgement with tools and equipment, behaving dangerously towards themselves or others, putting themselves or others at direct risk of harm. These reactions are a clear indication that the student is unable to cope with the situation and intervention of some sort is needed to ensure the safety of themselves and others.

Legal References to which this Policy Applies

This policy and the actions within it refer to and follow the guidelines set out below in as far as they are practicable

- a) Safer handling and restraint
- b) MASH and Safeguarding
- c) Evolve training
- d) NSPCC Bullying advice and guidance
- e) Criminal Law

Protocol for Dealing with a Child in Crisis

There are many situations that may present themselves when a child is in crisis, the following is in no way a comprehensive list, but is designed to provide advice and guidance to help keep you and others safe in a potentially difficult situation with a learner.

All staff who are working 1:1 with a learner or who have an identified vulnerable learner within their group must maintain radio contact with other staff on site.

Anger and violence

Any child who represents a danger to others through their violent reactions should be dealt with in the following manner

- Immediately radio for assistance
- Where it is possible and practical to do so, prevent further violence by separating the student/s and send the victim of the violence with the other member of staff
- If possible keep the violent child separate from all other students
 - If they can be contained then do so but be aware that if they feel trapped it is likely to make the situation worse
 - If they walk or run off then allow them to but follow at a safe distance and where possible guide their exit away from other learners (it is likely they will try to exit the site the way they came in)
 - If possible keep them on site but physical intervention should be a last resort and only used if they are a clear danger to themselves or others (ie they are walking or standing in the middle of the road with no regard for traffic, or where you feel they present a threat to members of the public or other people in the area)
 - If they leave the site and refuse to return, inform them that the policy is to call the school and the police if they do not return
- Ring the school and arrange for immediate transportation for the student back to the school premises
- Physically restrain students only as a very last resort, and only where it has been identified as safe to do so in risk assessments or by a manager.
- Remember: You must refer to your own safety at all times, do not put yourself in harms way to try and control the situation.

Leaving the area or the premises

Any child who leaves the area or the site as a result of their reaction should be dealt with in the following manner

- Immediately radio for support, and if necessary place other learners with another member of staff so you can deal with the incident
- Allow the learner to move freely about the site as long as they are not a danger to themselves or others; if they feel trapped it will likely make the situation worse
- If they leave the site completely warn them that the policy is to ring the school and the police and ask them to return to the premises. Give them space to be left alone as long as they remain on site and safe to themselves and others
- If they do not return to site, inform the school to arrange transport, and also inform the police if you feel they are unsafe or pose a risk to themselves, others or property in the area

Inappropriate use of equipment or tools during an incident

The following procedures should be followed in these cases

- Immediately radio for assistance
- All tools and equipment being used should be returned and put away immediately, in the case of intervention especially this should also include locking tools securely away
- Once the tools are away the other behaviour procedures can be followed as per this document
- If the student refuses to relinquish tools or equipment **DO NOT TRY TO TAKE THEM BY FORCE**. It is extremely dangerous to put yourself in harms way and also to potentially escalate the incident. Where necessary remove all other learners to a safe distance and then inform learner that the police will be called if they refuse to put down the equipment or tools
 - If they still refuse call the school and the police immediately
 - If they leave the immediate area whilst still in possession of tools or equipment phone the school and the police immediately
 - If they leave the site whilst in possession of tools or equipment phone the school and the police immediately
- Where the learner has removed themselves from the area but is damaging or misusing equipment whilst separate from the group, ask them to stop and inform them you will ring the school and police if it continues. It is likely they will move away if you continue to follow them so if this works as a tactic then follow them until they are in an area where minimal damage can be caused and then allow them to have some space whilst being observed

Abusive or bad language

The following procedures should be followed

- Where the language is directed at others directly or is affecting other learners on site then either the offender or the group should be moved away, whichever is most practical to do
- The learner should be informed that the language is inappropriate and that it will be reported to school and a record kept
- They should be reminded of the other learners on site and that it could jeopardise their return to sessions
- If the learner's behaviour escalates or if they leave the area without instruction to do so immediately radio for support and follow the procedures for their actions as in this document

- If the behaviour escalates or is out of control immediately return all tools and equipment to a secure location and follow appropriate steps for this, should it not be possible to get tools or equipment from learners.

If a severe reaction results in student breaking down or disclosure

If a student becomes upset or makes a disclosure as a result of an incident then the safeguarding policy and procedure should be followed and the safeguarding officer (Shevek Pring) and MASH should be informed of the situation as appropriate.

For more information please see the Safeguarding Policy.

Before any incident

Where an incident can be predicted or foreseen, measures should be taken as early as possible to redirect focus, change activity or address underlying tensions to try and prevent escalation. This step is left to the expertise of the instructors who have the best knowledge and relationship with the learners themselves.

During an incident

The following things are critical during an incident

- That you radio for assistance at the earliest available opportunity
- That you keep yourself safe first
- That you make the environment as safe as possible, this could include;
 - Putting out fires
 - Removing and securing equipment and tools
 - Removing logs, branches etc
 - Moving other students away
 - Moving student away from hazards such as trees to climb or things to throw, mud to get stuck in etc
- That you keep other learners safe
- That you make the learner in question as safe as possible
- That school/police are informed as appropriate
- That you are present with the learner or can see them until they are safely escorted from the site

After any incident of this nature

After an incident of any sort the following should be done

- Inform your manager who will inform the school if you have not already done so
- Fill in an incident report
- Fill in any other forms as necessary
- Update risk assessments as necessary
- Brief any other staff who work with students on the incident

Date created: 1st October 2017

Signature of Director or Company Secretary:



Name: Shevek Pring

Review date set: 1st October 2018

Reviewed by:

Amended / updated? yes / no

Brief explanation of changes:

Signature of Director or Company Secretary:

Name:

New Review date set:

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