

Herne Bay High School's

Guidelines for Supporting Students who may become Parents

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| Guidelines reviewed by | Mr T Baldwin | Date of last review | 06.2021. | Date of next review | 06.2022 | Date of guidelines ratification by Governors | Sept 2021 |
| Purpose of guidelines | | | | | | | |
| These guidelines are intended to address the needs of young people who may be pregnant or about to become a parent, whilst at school. | | | | | | | |

Herne Bay High School's

Guidelines and Procedures for Supporting Students who may become Parents

1. Introduction

These guidelines are intended to address the needs of young people who may be pregnant or about to become a parent, whilst at school.

2. Principles

- 1) The school intends that every student will be encouraged to achieve to his/her full potential by receiving an appropriate education and support to work to the best of each individual's abilities.
- 2) The school Confidentiality Guidelines must be complied with at all times.
- 3) When a young woman is pregnant, it is essential that she receives the best possible information, care and support to ensure a successful pregnancy but also to enable her to remain in full time education.
- 4) When a young man may become a father, it is essential that he receives the best possible information, care and support to ensure that he understands the options open to him to engage in the role of a father, whilst continuing to pursue a full time education.
- 5) It is essential that the school plays its full part in joint working with the agencies involved with young parents.

3. Procedures for Staff

a) Young Women

Immediately a member of staff either suspects or becomes aware that a young woman that is a student in the school is pregnant, they must report the matter to the Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL).

Under no circumstances should a member of staff give any undertaking to keep such information confidential.

The DSL will then establish contact with the young woman and discuss the need to confirm the pregnancy and provide information on access to appropriate health services. This will include the options of referral to the School Nurse, an appointment with the young woman's General Practitioner or a visit to a Sexual Health Clinic.

If the young woman declines to access those services, the DSL will determine whether or not the young woman may be classified as "At Risk", advice will be sought from KCC.

If the young woman is determined to be "At Risk", the relevant procedures will be followed, i.e. telephone the KCC local safeguarding officer and/or Social Services for a 'consultation'. If the young woman is determined to not be "At Risk", the DSL will take appropriate steps to encourage the young woman to obtain appropriate health care.

If the pregnancy is confirmed, the DSL will liaise with the KCC local safeguarding officer in order to ensure that KCC have all the necessary information they require and the DSL will take further advice re. establishing an appropriate response for the young woman/man to support them appropriately, through liaising with the agencies that are available.

A Personal Support Plan will be established for the young woman. The DSL will oversee the coordination of the Personal Support Plan.

The DSL will also encourage the young woman to discuss her pregnancy with her parent/carer.

b) Young Men

Immediately a member of staff either suspects or becomes aware that a young man that is a student in the school is or may become a father, they must report the matter to the Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL). See Point 4 for 6th Form Students.

Under no circumstances should a member of staff give any undertaking to keep such information confidential..

The DSL will then contact the young man and confirm the facts.

If the young man is, or is about to become, a father, the DSL will discuss the circumstances with him and provide information on the support services that are available to him, e.g. the School Counsellor, Connexions, etc.

Where the Personal Support Plan for the young woman involved includes the involvement of the young man in providing support to her, appropriate arrangements will be made to ensure that he can take a full part in the pregnancy and birth.

4. 6th Form Students

It is understood that procedures may differ for students over the age of 16 and the Sixth Form Manager would discuss any such issues with the DSL.