



St MARK'S SOCIAL EDUCATION DAY SERVICE
For Autistic people with Learning Disabilities

WHISTLEBLOWING POLICY



- Whistleblowing encourages and enables employees to raise serious concerns **within** the company rather than overlooking a problem or 'blowing the whistle' outside.
- Employees are often the first to realise that there is something seriously wrong within the company. However, they may not express their concerns as they feel that speaking up would be disloyal to their colleagues or to the Management.
- The company is committed to the highest possible standards of openness, probity and accountability. In line with that commitment we expect employees, and others that we deal with, who have serious concerns about any aspect of the company's work to come forward and voice those concerns.
- The policy applies to all employees, (including, temporary agency, authorised volunteers or work experience), It also covers suppliers and those providing services under a contract with the Company.

The Aims of the Policy

- To encourage you to feel confident in raising concerns and to question and act upon concerns about practice.
- To provide avenues for you to raise concerns in confidence and receive feedback on any action taken.
- To ensure that you receive a response to your concerns and that you are aware of how to pursue them if you are not satisfied.
- To reassure you that you will be protected from possible reprisals or victimisation if you have a reasonable belief that you have made any disclosure which is in the public interest. .

What Types of Concern are Covered?

- Conduct which is an offence or a breach of law.
- Failure to comply with a legal obligation.
- Disclosures related to miscarriages of justice.
- Health and Safety risks, including risks to the public as well as students and other employees.
- Damage to the environment.
- The unauthorised use of company funds.
- Possible fraud and corruption.
- Sexual, physical or other abuse of students.
- Other unethical conduct.

- Actions which are unprofessional, inappropriate or conflict with a general understanding of what is right and wrong.

The company recognises that the decision to report a concern can be a difficult one to make. If what you are saying is true, you should have nothing to fear because you will be doing your duty to your employer and those for whom you provide a service.

The company will not tolerate any harassment or victimisation (including informal pressures) and will take appropriate action to protect you when you raise a concern which is in the public interest.

Confidentiality

All concerns will be treated in confidence and every effort will be made not to reveal your identity if you so wish. At the appropriate time, however, you may need to come forward as a witness.

This policy encourages you however to put your name to your concern whenever possible. Please note that:

- Staff must believe the disclosure of information is in the public interest.
- Staff must believe it to be substantially true.
- Staff must **not** act maliciously or make false allegations.
- Staff must **not** seek any personal gain.

How to Raise a Concern

As a first step, you should normally raise concerns with your immediate supervisor/manager or their superior. This may depend, however, on the seriousness and sensitivity of the issues involved and who is suspected of the malpractice. For example, if you believe that management is involved you should approach a more senior level of management or local authority.