

BIDDICK ACADEMY

SPECIALISING IN SPORTS
AND PERFORMING ARTS

Pregnant School Girl Policy (2017-18)

Policy

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Pregnant School Girl Policy

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Introduction

Our Academy aim: ***“A safe place where we all promote and enjoy the highest individual achievement”***

The aim of this document is to establish clear procedures that help to create a positive climate for learning for all students.

It is a primary aim that every member of our community feels valued and respected, and that each person is treated fairly within a climate of mutual trust and respect.

All staff believe that our Academy should provide a caring, positive, safe and stimulating environment that promotes the social, physical and moral development of the individual student.

1.1 Aims

- Reflect the values expressed in the Academy Aim
- Give clear guidelines on responsibility of staff from initial disclosure to reintegration after birth.

The Objectives of the Academy’s Attendance policy are to:

- Ensure that the Tutorial Curriculum delivers a programme of SRE bespoke to individual year groups, that is progressive through years 7 to 11 which matches the maturity and understanding of all students in each of the year groups.
- Encourage a culture of understanding which allows students to seek advice and support from the Health and Wellbeing Professional and other agencies which prevent conceptions from taking place and therefore the distress that teenage pregnancies can cause.
- Ensure that the Academy is a safe and supportive environment for all pregnant schoolgirls and fathers.
- Ensure that all members of the Academy community are shown respect and show respect for others.
- Encourage a positive approach to education and learning beyond the birth of the baby.
- Ensure that the environment, curriculum, other factors within the Academy's control are monitored to ensure the promotion of good education.

Pregnancy

2.1 Initial Disclosure

If a member of staff is made aware that a student is pregnant or thinks she may be pregnant, staff must not offer or guarantee students unconditional confidentiality because of possible emerging child protection concerns.

Staff should inform the relevant Head of Year immediately who will inform the Deputy Head teacher (Pastoral).

The Academy is not legally bound to inform parents / carers, however it will be appropriate in the majority of cases that they are informed. The final decision rests with the Head teacher and Deputy Head teacher (pastoral).

The Head of Year who finds out that a student is pregnant or may be pregnant will ensure that the student receives full information about services in her local area, for example pregnancy testing, termination services or specialist services, how to access them and has the opportunity to talk through the options with the Health and wellbeing professional.

(In all instances of pregnancy in young women under 16, Social Services referral team will be called to discuss whether the Child Protection referral procedures should be followed. If there is any likelihood that the pregnancy is the result of abuse there should be immediate discussion with child protection staff in school, Social Services Department or the Police).

2.2 Continuation of Pregnancy

In cases where a student has decided to continue with her pregnancy, the Head of Year will liaise with the Health and Wellbeing professional so that arrangements can be made for her continuing education.

The Head of Year should inform relevant members of staff and **in consultation with the student**, nominate a member of staff (usually the Health & Wellbeing Professional) to take responsibility for the student's welfare and continuing education (alongside the Head of Year).

The pregnancy will be dealt with sensitively by both teachers and students within the school, respecting the student's wishes for confidentiality.

Education

The Academy's aim is to keep the pregnant student or school age mother in learning. This means in all cases keeping the student on the school roll, even if she may not be able to attend for a period of time; keeping in touch with her progress and planning for her re-integration back into the Academy.

The Academy aims to keep the student continuing in the Academy for as long as possible before the birth, up to six weeks before and more (unless there is a medical reason). Where it is not practicable for the student to attend the Academy prior to the birth then every effort will be made to provide her with a bespoke education.

3.1 Personal Learning Plan

The Head of Year, along with the Health and Wellbeing Professional, will initiate a meeting with the girl (or school boy father), their parents / carers and any other specialist service deemed necessary to discuss and put in place a plan on how their educational needs will be met during the pregnancy.

Pregnancy is not a reason for exclusion. Health and Safety should not be used as a reason to prevent a pregnant student attending the Academy.

The Academy and Head of Year along with the Health and Wellbeing Professional will undertake a risk assessment as part of the plans to keep the student at school.

3.2 Absence

The maximum period of absence for pregnant school students / young mothers is 8 calendar weeks to cover the time immediately before and after the birth of the child. During this period the student is not expected to attend the Academy. The Academy recognises that there may be exceptional circumstances where the pregnant student / young mother may have to attend during this period for example during exam time so that she is not disadvantaged by being unable to take exams. Each student will be considered as an individual and the maternity leave may change depending on circumstance.

The maximum period of absence for young fathers will be 5 school days. Each student will be treated as an individual and the leave may vary depending on circumstance.

Absence for ante-natal classes and other appointments in relation to the pregnancy for young mothers and fathers will be classified as "authorised".

In all cases the Academy will keep the student on the school roll, even if she may not be able to attend for a period of time. The Student Support and Pastoral teams are responsible for the student will keep in touch with her progress, provide work and liaise with any other outside agencies on the continuity of her education. If health allows the student should return following the authorised period of absence.

3.3 Reintegration

Following the birth of the baby and a period of "maternity leave" plans will be made for the girl to return to the Academy with the minimum of disruption. A meeting will be held with the girl, her parents/carers, appropriate Academy staff and any other agencies to plan her return.

The Academy will offer a flexible re-integration programme including part-time attendance for a period of time, if appropriate. This will be reviewed regularly with the student, parents / carers, other agencies and Academy staff.

Where both parents attend the same school, the school should be supportive of both parents in their responsibilities for caring for their child.

Support and help with childcare grants for the student can be arranged if required.