

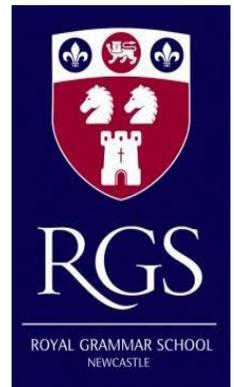
Newcastle upon Tyne Royal Grammar School

Confidentiality at RGS: guidance for students

This policy applies to the whole School and is published to parents and students

Reviewed August 2017

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See also Complaints policy

Sometimes your concerns might be medical or very personal. You can be sure that the staff you talk to will be sensitive and not shocked by what you say. You should approach anyone who you feel you can trust and are comfortable talking with. Anything you say will be treated with discretion and things will be kept private.

Sometimes you may tell us information which we will have to pass on to other professionals to support you effectively. If this is the case we will tell you what is happening and who will have access to the information. Depending on your age, maturity and nature of the problem, **we are not obliged** to pass on information to your parents, although we will encourage you to talk to them and can help you start the conversation with them if you wish.

You may hear the term *safeguarding* used in connection to student welfare or pastoral care. Safeguarding refers to the policies and procedures in place to protect or safeguard students from significant hurt or harm including bullying, sexting, mental ill-health and sexual exploitation as well as a result of sexual, physical, emotional abuse or neglect.

If you know someone is being hurt in some way then it is important that you tell someone about what is happening so that they can help it to stop. Remember, it is not your fault if you are being hurt; whoever is hurting you is to blame.

The person responsible for making sure your concerns are dealt with is **Mrs Baillie, the Pastoral Director**. Her official role in this area is *Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL)*. She is based in the Year Heads' office and she is happy to talk to you at any time.