



# HISTORIC ABUSE POLICY 2025-26

Summary of changes

Staff member responsible	Revision date	Approved by	Approval date	Reason for update
Rector		SSG	Aug 2025	New Policy

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## **LINKS TO UNCRC**

This policy links to the following UNCRC articles:

- Article 19 – Protection from Violence
- Article 34 – Protection from Sexual Abuse

## **LINKS TO OTHER DOLLAR ACADEMY POLICIES**

This policy has links with the following Dollar Academy policies:

- Anti-Bullying Policy
- Child Protection Policy

## **INTRODUCTION**

The Boarding Schools section of the Scottish Child Abuse Inquiry (SCAI) is nearing its conclusion. We have been profoundly saddened to hear the accounts of historic abuse from the eight independent schools involved, just as we were when cases of historic abuse within our own school came to light some years ago. Schools should always be safe environments, and we recognise that this was not always the case for some of our pupils. For this, we are genuinely sorry.

We take any disclosures of historic abuse very seriously. It is our practice to request that survivors refer all potentially criminal allegations of abuse, whether made against staff, pupils or third parties, to the police and relevant statutory agencies, in order that they can be fully and expertly investigated. The school is committed to co-operating fully with any criminal or civil process in relation to historic abuse claims.

The published case studies from the boarding schools section of the SCAI reinforce important lessons learned from the past and remind us that there is no room for complacency when it comes to looking after our pupils.

Child protection is central to everything we do as a school. We follow the national child protection [guidelines](#) and undergo regular inspections by the Care Inspectorate, which recently commended us for providing a 'sector-leading' standard of care in our boarding houses. Our comprehensive child protection policies and procedures, developed in collaboration with leading external experts, are regularly reviewed to ensure they reflect the highest standards of best practice.

We welcome contact from our former pupils affected by historic abuse. We recognise that childhood experiences can have profound and long-lasting effects and are dedicated to learning from the past to strengthen our current safeguarding measures.

## **SCOPE OF THE POLICY**

We have created this historic abuse policy in an endeavour to better support survivors. It relates specifically to historic abuse disclosed by, or on behalf of, pupils once they have left the school.

Information relating to current pupils is managed in accordance with Dollar Academy's Child Protection Policy and Procedures and is therefore outwith the scope of this policy.

Information regarding a current member of staff is managed in accordance with Dollar Academy's Child Protection Policy and Procedures, together with current employment policies, and therefore also falls outside the scope of this policy.

Information regarding a former member of staff or pupil is covered by this policy.

### OUR COMMITMENT

Dollar Academy recognises that abuse during childhood can have wide-ranging consequences. For some victims, witnesses of abuse, or survivors, these effects endure throughout adult life. We are committed to learning from the past to ensure the best safeguarding of all our pupils, with zero tolerance of abuse.

The aim of this policy is to explain clearly how someone can report historic abuse, the support we can offer, and our commitment to survivors. It demonstrates that Dollar Academy takes all notification of historic abuse seriously.

The Historic Abuse Policy is based on five key principles:

**Recognise:** Dollar Academy listens to, takes seriously, and acts responsibly towards notification of historic abuse.

**Respond:** Dollar Academy seeks to support the welfare of former pupils who report historic abuse, actively listening to what outcome and support they require.

**Report:** Dollar Academy shares information carefully, ensuring that actions are always respectful, lawful, and based on what we know to be good practice.

**Record:** Dollar Academy has clearly defined procedures for documenting, updating, and reviewing information relating to historic abuse.

**Review:** Dollar Academy seeks to learn from individual cases to inform the continual improvement of safeguarding and wellbeing policies.

### SUPPORT AND REPORTING

If you would like to contact the school regarding historic abuse, please use the following details:

#### The School

Mr Ian Munro, Rector, or Mr Graeme Morrison, Chief Operating Officer

Phone: 01259 742 511

Email: [rector@dollaracademy.org.uk](mailto:rector@dollaracademy.org.uk)

#### The Police

Phone: 101

Email: [OperationTreefrog@scotland.police.uk](mailto:OperationTreefrog@scotland.police.uk)

#### The Scottish Child Abuse Inquiry

Phone: 0800 0929 300

Email: [talktous@childabuseinquiry.scot](mailto:talktous@childabuseinquiry.scot)

Postal address: Post PO BOX 24085, Edinburgh, EH7 9EA

### WHAT HAPPENS NEXT?

Dollar Academy recognises that each survivor's case is individual to their circumstances and experiences. We will tailor our response accordingly, with the survivor at the centre. For example, a number of survivors have benefited from learning about current safeguarding

practices at the Academy. Some have appreciated having their experiences listened to and acknowledged, and others have benefitted from being signposted to further external support providers.

### **OUTCOMES & LEARNING**

Dollar Academy will review each case received, and the learnings from those reviews will inform and develop our best practice in responding to information about historic abuse and our Safeguarding Policy.

### **DOLLAR ACADEMY SURVIVORS GROUP**

There is an active, well-connected, and independent Support Group of former pupils willing to listen, support, and provide reassurance to other former pupils who experienced historic abuse at the School. The group can be contacted through the following email address [Dollarfpsupprrt@gmail.com](mailto:Dollarfpsupprrt@gmail.com)

## APPENDIX A: LINKS TO SUPPORT ORGANISATIONS

- **Dollar Academy Survivor's Group:** [Dollarfpsupprt@gmail.com](mailto:Dollarfpsupprt@gmail.com)
- **General Support:**
  - Citizens Advice: [www.citizensadvice.org.uk](http://www.citizensadvice.org.uk)
  - Future Pathways: <https://future-pathways.co.uk/>
  - The National Association for People Abused in Childhood (NAPAC): [www.napac.org.uk](http://www.napac.org.uk)
  - National Confidential Forum: [www.nationalconfidentialforum.org.uk](http://www.nationalconfidentialforum.org.uk)
  - Rape Crisis England & Wales: [www.rapecrisis.org.uk](http://www.rapecrisis.org.uk)
  - Rape Crisis Scotland: [www.rapecrisisscotland.org.uk](http://www.rapecrisisscotland.org.uk)
  - Scottish Child Abuse Inquiry: [www.childabuseinquiry.scot](http://www.childabuseinquiry.scot)
  - Scottish Childhood Abuse: [www.mygov.scot/childhood-abuse](http://www.mygov.scot/childhood-abuse)
  - Speak out Scotland: [www.speakoutscotland.org](http://www.speakoutscotland.org)
  - The Samaritans: [www.samaritans.org](http://www.samaritans.org)
  - The Survivors Trust (TST): [www.thesurvivorstrust.org](http://www.thesurvivorstrust.org)
- **Legal Advice and Support:**
  - Citizen's Advice Bureau:
  - <https://www.citizensadvice.org.uk/family/children-and-young-people/child-abuse/financial-compensation-for-child-abuse/>
  - Criminal Injuries Compensation Authority: <https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/criminal-injuries-compensation-authority>
  - Law Society of Scotland: <https://www.lawscot.org.uk/find-a-solicitor/>
  - Legal Aid Scotland: <https://www.slac.org.uk/public/solicitor-finder/>
  - Scottish Women's Rights Centre: <https://www.scottishwomensrightscentre.org.uk/>
  - Victim Support Scotland: <https://www.victimsupportsco.org.uk/>