
The Whitby High School

A Specialist Technology College



CHILD PROTECTION SAFEGUARDING POLICY

AIMS

“Where there is no vision, the people perish”

Proverbs 29 v18

We seek to fulfil the needs of learners in a caring, happy environment, enabling them to realise their true potential as young people and citizens.

We aim to enable our learners to:-

PREPARE for adult life in a happy, caring and purposeful environment

ACHIEVE their full potential regardless of individual need

CARE for everyone and encourage respect and tolerance

ENJOY education and rejoice in success

Purpose

To give guidance to staff about the expected codes of behaviour in dealing with child protection issues being mindful that concerns and referrals should be handled sensitively, in ways which support the needs of the child.

There are three main elements to our Child Protection Policy'.

Aims and Objectives

- a) Prevention:
We aim to enable children to develop high self- esteem and confidence with supportive friends and clear lines of communication with a trusted adult. Our school will therefore establish and maintain an ethos where children feel secure and are encouraged to talk. That they are listened to and by including in the curriculum activities and opportunities for PSHCE, which equip children with the knowledge and skills which would improve their confidence to ensure their own protection or the protection of other children.
- b) Protection:
We aim to do this by following agreed procedures, ensuring staff are trained and supported to respond appropriately and sensitively to Child Protection concerns.
- c) Support: (To pupils and school staff and to children who may have been abused by Physical abuse, Neglect, Emotional abuse, Sexual abuse or Bullying).
By following procedures that staff are familiar with and by ensuring that wherever possible every effort will be made to establish effective working relationships with parents and colleagues from other agencies.

Procedure and Structure

- a) All adults working with or on behalf of children have a responsibility to safeguard children. There is, however, a designated teacher(s) - Child Protection Designated Teacher (CPDT), who must be contacted immediately when anyone becomes concerned or receives information which may relate to abuse of a pupil or any child protection issue.
The Headteacher is the second point of contact.
The Child Protection designated teachers are Mr S Gray, Mr D McGrath, Miss L Hewitt, Mrs H Hill, & Mrs K Hill.
- b) The names and procedures must be known by all teaching staff, classroom assistants, mid-day assistants, ancillary staff, school governors and outside agencies who have a child protection role.
- c) Where it is believed that a child is suffering from, or is at risk of significant harm, we will follow the procedures set out in the document produced by

Training and Support

- a) The CPDT must have the opportunity to attend appropriate courses and ensure that they are kept up to date. (Ideally every 2-3 years). S/he will then keep staff informed of any current child protection issues.
- b) Appropriate INSET must be provided for all staff.
- c) The CPDT must maintain links with all agencies who may be involved and offer support, e.g. Education Welfare Service
County Psychological Service
Social Services etc.
- c) Our school recognises the need to attend Child Protection Case Conferences or to send a written report if attendance is not possible. The member of staff who can contribute the most relevant information to conference should attend. However, inexperienced staff should be supported by the Child Protection Designated teacher or Head Teacher.

Keeping Records and Confidentiality

- a) Well-kept records are essential to good child protection practice. Our school is clear about the need to record any concerns held about a child or children within our school, the security of records and who has legitimate access to them. **See Appendix B**
- b) If a member of staff feels that a child is upset and he/she is trying to discover the cause, they should never promise to keep the information a secret.
- c) If the member of staff is told something by the child which is of a child protection issue they must advise the child that the information needs to be shared with others.

Information to Parents

Information on a general level will be included in the school prospectus each year. It will outline the duties of the School in Child Protection proceedings as laid down by the Cheshire Child Protection Committee in the Manual of Procedures.

SMT 1995, GB 1996, 2000, 2006

Additional advice regarding staff and taking photographs of children are in Appendices C and D.

Appendix A

Referral to Social Services should be used when we consider that a child has needs which cannot be met solely by the services or resources within the Education Community Department and where, following an assessment of the situation, we believe co-ordinated intervention is required to promote, safeguard or protect the welfare of the child.

Where, following an assessment of a situation, it is considered immediate protective action is required; a child protection referral must be made by the Designated Teacher. This referral will be by telephone to the ACCESS Team and will be confirmed in writing by forwarding the Child in Need (CIN) referral form to Social Service Access Team and Senior Education Welfare Officer, within 24 hours.

In these circumstances, we will have records detailing what work has been undertaken by our school to support the child and family and why we believe that a more corporate and co-ordinated approach is needed. This information then provides the basis for the completion of the Initial Assessment. The request for co-ordinated support services for a family should always be discussed with parents unless to do so would place the child or others at risk of harm.

- The form is to be completed by the Designated Child Protection Teacher(s)
- A central copy will be kept in a locked file and a reference of the referral placed in the child's file.
- The Head teacher, Head of House and the other Child protection teachers will be advised that a referral has been made.

Procedure

When a child confides details which could involve any abuse to the child, to a member of staff, that member of staff should advise the child that they will have to tell either Mr S Gray, Mr D McGrath, Miss L Hewitt, Mrs H Hill, & Mrs K Hill or the head teacher.

The child's statement must be recorded. The DCPT must then make the decision to refer the child to the ACCESS team at social services and then complete the CIN1 Form within 24hours.

("What to do if you're worried a child is being abused?"
www.doh.gov.uk/safeguardingchildren/index.htm)

Appendix B

Professionals can only work together to safeguard children if there is an exchange of relevant information between them. This has been recognised in principle by the courts. Any disclosure of personal information to others, [including the social service departments], must always however, have regard to both common and statute law.

Normally, personal information should only be disclosed to third parties (including other agencies) with the consent of the subject of that information (*Data Protection Act 1998, European Convention on Human Rights, Article 8*). Wherever possible, consent should be obtained before sharing personal information with third parties. In some circumstances, consent may not be possible or desirable but the safety and welfare of a child dictate that the information should be shared.

The law permits the disclosure of confidential information necessary to safeguard a child or children. Disclosure should be justifiable in each case, according to the particular facts of the case, and legal advice should be sought if in doubt.

The named governor responsible for Child Protection should be aware that of the procedures adopted by the school for Child Protection? S/he however will not be given details relating to specific child protection situations.

Advise to staff Appendix C

This school will ensure that all adults, whether members of staff, volunteers or involved in the transportation of pupils will be subject to the appropriate level of vetting procedures. The school will follow the ACPC Procedures – Allegations against Professional Carers in cases of suspected inappropriate conduct by staff in respect of children.’

Appendix D

The use of photographic images of children by schools

As a general rule, where it is appropriate to use images of children schools should:-

- Obtain the active consent of pupils and parents.
- Be able to justify the production of such images.
- Specify how the material will be used.
- Ensure that the names of young people are not printed with photographs which could identify individuals without parental consent.

- Visits by newspaper employees to schools are planned in advance and a senior member of staff is aware that images are being taken and for what purpose.
- Avoid making images in one to one situations.
- Ensure that all images are available for scrutiny in order to screen for acceptability.
- Make arrangements for storage and disposal of all materials including any unused images.
- Parents and relatives of pupils should be made aware that any photographs or video film they take at school events are likely to contain images of children who will not have given their permission to be filmed or photographed. Such images should not be circulated more widely than the family. A note to this effect could be printed on event programmes or tickets.