

Child Protection Policy

This policy was adopted January 2010
The policy is to be reviewed on January 2011

1.

Introduction

- 1.1 **Safeguarding** (as defined in the Joint Inspector's Safeguarding report) is taken to mean "All agencies working with children, young people and their families take all reasonable measures to ensure that the risk of harm to children's welfare are minimised" and "where there are concerns about children and young people's welfare, all agencies take all appropriate actions to address those concerns, working to agree local policies and procedures in full partnership with other agencies".
- 1.2 The protection of children is of the highest priority for our school.
- 1.3 Safeguarding is not just about protecting children from deliberate harm. It includes issues for schools such as:
- pupil health and safety
 - bullying
 - racist abuse
 - harassment and discrimination
 - use of physical intervention
 - meeting the needs of pupils with medical conditions
 - providing first aid
 - drug and substance misuse
 - educational visits
 - intimate care
 - internet safety
 - school security.
- 1.4 The Laming report emphasises that safeguarding is 'everybody's' responsibility and everyone should know who to contact if they are concerned about a child or young person. Hence within this policy we endeavour to ensure school staff explicitly understand their responsibilities in order to achieve positive outcomes, keep children safe.
- 1.5 We recognise that all staff¹ and Governors have a full and active part to play in protecting our pupils from harm, and that the child's welfare is our paramount concern.

¹ "Staff" covers ALL adult staff on site, including temporary, supply and ancillary staff, and volunteers working with children

- 1.6 We believe that our school should provide a safe, caring, positive and stimulating environment that promotes the academic learning of all, along side the social, physical and moral development of the individual child.
- 1.7 This policy has been developed in accordance with the principles established by the Children Act 1989; and in line with the following:
- 'Working Together to Safeguard Children' 2006
 - 'Framework for the Assessment of Children in Need and their Families' 2000
 - 'What to do if you are worried a Child is being Abused' 2003
 - 'Safeguarding Children and Safer Recruitment in Education' DCSF 2006
 - 'Southampton's Safeguarding Children Boards (LSCB) Child Protection Procedures' 2006
 - Safeguarding Vulnerable Groups Act 2006 (Vetting and Barring 2009)
 - Raising Standards Improving Lives - Ofsted Guidance 2009
- 1.8 The aims of this policy are:
- To provide an environment in which children and young people feel safe, secure, valued and respected, and feel confident to approach adults if they are in difficulties.
 - To raise the awareness of all teaching and non-teaching staff of the need to safeguard children and of their responsibilities in identifying and reporting possible cases of abuse.
 - To provide a systematic means of monitoring children known or thought to be at risk of harm, and ensure we, the school, contribute to assessments of need and support plans for those children.
 - To develop a structured procedure within the school that will be followed by all members of the school community in cases of suspected abuse.
 - To ensure that all adults within our school who have access to children have been checked as to their suitability. This includes other community users of our facilities.

2. Procedures

- 2.1 The Governing Body of our school is responsible for ensuring the annual review of this policy, and for reporting back to the Local Authority.
- 2.2 The Governing Body understands, takes seriously and fulfils its Safeguarding responsibilities under section 175 of the Education Act 2002 to safeguard and promote the welfare of children.
- 2.3 The school have a Designated Person for Child Protection know as the Child Protection Lead Officer (CPLD) currently that person or persons is Rob Griffiths and they are a member/or members of the Senior Leadership Team and have undertaken appropriate training for the role, as recommended by the LA within the past two years. Our CPLD will attend Network Meetings arranged by the LA on a termly basis to update them on current issues within the LA.
- 2.4 We have a member of staff who will act in the absence of the CPLD who has also received training, and been briefed in the procedures and role of the CPLD. In the absence of an appropriately trained member of staff, the Head teacher will assume this role.
- 2.5 All adults, (including supply teachers and volunteers) new to our school will be made aware of the school's policy and procedures for child protection, the name and contact details of the CPLD and have these explained, as part of their induction into the school.
- 2.6 All members of staff are provided with opportunities at least every two years to receive training either delivered by the CPLD or the Local Authority in order to develop their understanding of the signs and indicators of abuse, how to respond to a pupil who discloses abuse and the procedure to be followed in appropriately sharing a concern of possible abuse or a disclosure of abuse.
- 2.7 All parents/carers are made aware of the school's responsibilities in regard to child protection procedures through publication of the school's Child Protection Policy, and reference to it in our prospectus/brochure and home school agreement.
- 2.8 Our lettings policy will seek to ensure the suitability of adults working with children on school sites at any time.
- 2.9 Community users organising activities for children are aware of and understand the need for compliance with the school's child protection guidelines and procedures.
- 2.10 Our selection and recruitment policy includes all checks on staff and regular volunteers' suitability including Criminal Records Bureau checks as recommended by the LA and in accordance with current legislation.

- 2.11 The name of any member of staff considered not suitable to work with children will be notified to the DCSF Teachers' Misconduct Team, with the advice and support of Human Resources and in accordance with the NEOST guidance and related regulations²
- 2.12 The aim of the new Vetting and Barring Scheme (VBS) is to reduce the incidence of harm to children and vulnerable adults by helping to ensure that:
- Employers benefit from an improved vetting service for those who work, or wish to work, with children and/or vulnerable adults, and that
 - Those who are known to be unsuitable are barred from working with children and/or vulnerable adults at the earliest possible opportunity.
- 2.13 The scheme is formed by a partnership between the ISA (the Independent Safeguarding Authority), and the CRB (the Criminal Records Bureau). In simple terms, the ISA is responsible for making decisions in relation to barring individuals from working with children or vulnerable adults, and for maintaining 2 barring lists which cover the children's and vulnerable adults sectors. The CRB will operate the registration process, and the on-going monitoring of individuals once they are registered.
- 2.15 The Scheme provides significant safeguards but does not remove the need for employers to have robust recruitment procedures.
- 2.16 Our procedures will be annually reviewed and up-dated with school staff and the governors.
- 2.17 The name of the CPLO will be clearly shown in the school, with statement explaining the school's role in referring and monitoring cases of suspected abuse.

3. Supporting Children

- 3.1 We recognise that a child who is abused, who witnesses violence or who lives in a violent environment may feel helpless and humiliated, may blame him/herself, and find it difficult to develop and maintain a sense of self worth.
- 3.2 We recognise that the school may provide the only stability in the lives of children who have been abused or who are at risk of harm.

² The 'Barring Regulations' are the Procedures for Barring or Restricting People Working with Children in Education' DfES July 2003

3.3 We recognise that the school plays a significant part in the prevention of harm to our pupils by providing pupils with effective lines of communication with trusted adults, supportive friends and an ethos of protection.

3.4 We accept that research shows that the behaviour of a child in these circumstances may range from that which is perceived to be normal to aggressive or withdrawn.

3.5 Our school will support all pupils by:

- Maintaining an ethos, this is understood by all staff, which enables children to feel secure and encourages them to talk knowing that they will be listened to.
- Encouraging the development of self-esteem and resilience in every aspect of school life including through the curriculum.
- Promoting a caring, safe and positive environment within the school.
- Liaising and working together with all other support services and those agencies involved in the safeguarding of children.
- Ensuring and providing that all children know there is an adult in the school whom they can approach if they are worried or in difficulty.
- Ensuring and providing, across the curriculum, opportunities, which equip children with the skills they need to stay safe from harm and to know to whom they should turn for help.

4. Confidentiality

4.1 We recognise that all matters relating to child protection are confidential. The Head teacher or CPLO will disclose personal information about a pupil to other members of staff on a need to know basis only.

4.2 However, all staff must be aware that they have a professional responsibility to share information with other agencies in order to safeguard children.

4.3 All staff must be aware that they cannot promise a child to keep secrets which might compromise the child's safety or well-being or that of another.

- 4.4 We will always undertake to share our intention to refer a child to Social Care with their parents /carers unless to do so could put the child at greater risk of harm, or impede a criminal investigation.

The CPLO will ensure the information received is clearly written documented their concerns regarding the risk identified any and dated. The information will be kept in a confidential file away from the pupil's everyday information.

5. Supporting Staff

- 5.1 We recognise that staff working in the school who have become involved with a child who has suffered harm, or appears to be likely to suffer harm may find the situation stressful and upsetting.

5.2 We will support such staff by providing an opportunity to talk through their anxieties with the CPLO and to seek further support. The head teacher should provide this or another trusted colleague, Occupational Health, and/or a representative of a professional body or trade union, as appropriate.

- 5.3 In consultation with all staff, we have adopted a code of conduct for staff at our school. This forms part of staff induction and is in the staff handbook. We understand that staff should have access to advice on the boundaries of appropriate behaviour.

6. Allegations against staff

- 6.1 All school staff should take care not to place themselves in a vulnerable position with a child.
- 6.2 All staff should be aware of the school's behaviour/discipline policy. This can be found on the school server, in staff folders and in the office.
- 6.3 We understand that a pupil may make an allegation against a member of staff. If such an allegation is made, the member of staff receiving the allegation will immediately inform the Head teacher or a member of the senior leadership team if the Head teacher is not present.
- 6.4 The Head teacher/senior teacher on all such occasions will discuss the content of the allegation with the Local Authority Designated Officer (LADO).

- 6.5 If the allegation made to a member of staff concerns the Head teacher, the person receiving the allegation will immediately inform the Chair of Governors who will consult as in 6.4 above, without notifying the Head teacher first.
- 6.6 The school will follow DCSF Guidance Handling Allegations of Abuse made against Adults who Work with Children and Young People 2007 (under review) and the guidance contained in Appendix 5 of Working Together to Safeguard Children (WT2006) (under review). For managing allegations against staff, a copy of which can be found at <http://www.dcsf.gov.uk>
- 6.7 Suspension of the member of staff against whom an allegation has been made needs careful consideration, and we will consult (as in 6.4 above) in making this decision.
- 6.8 Our lettings agreement for other users requires that the organiser will follow LA procedures for managing allegations against staff and, where necessary, the suspension of adults from school premises.

7. Whistle blowing

- 7.1 We recognise that children cannot be expected to raise concerns in an environment where staff fail to do so.
- 7.2 All staff should be aware of their duty to raise concerns about the attitude or actions of colleagues. This can be found within Southampton City Council's 'Duty to Act' Whistle Blowing Policy November 2008.

8. Physical Intervention

- 8.1 Our policy on physical intervention by staff is set out separately and complies with Southampton City Council's 'Physical Intervention Guidelines for Schools' (September 2009). This policy states that staff must only ever use physical intervention as a last resort, e.g. when a child is endangering him/herself or others and that, at all times it must be the minimal force necessary to prevent injury to another person.
- 8.2 Discussions with the head teachers regarding referrals to the Educational Psychologist can be made for support.

Role of the Designated Person (CPLO) for Child Protection

1. The designated person (CPLO) should be a member of the senior management team.
2. The CPLO should have clear understanding of their role and responsibilities and that of other staff.
3. The CPLO should ensure the head teacher is briefed on all Child Protection issues within the school
4. The CPLO should take responsibility to keep themselves up to date with their training for the role, to ensure knowledge and understanding of relevant key issues to enable them to fulfil their role, including attending relevant information sessions put on by the LA on a termly basis.
5. Making referrals to Social Care if there are concerns about a child's welfare, possible abuse or neglect.
6. Ensuring that detailed and accurate written records of concerns about a child are kept even if there is no need to make an immediate referral.
7. Ensuring that all such records are kept confidentially and securely and are **separate** from pupil records, with a front sheet listing dates and brief entry to provide a chronology. An indication of further record keeping should be marked on the pupil's general record.
8. Acting as a focal point for staff concerns and liaising with other agencies and professionals.
9. Ensuring that either they or another appropriately informed member of staff attends case conferences or other planning meetings, contributes to the assessment process, and provides a written report which has been shared with the parents.
10. Ensuring that any absence, without satisfactory explanation, of a pupil currently subject to a child protection plan is referred to their Education Welfare Officer and the key worker for the child protection plan immediately.
11. Ensuring that all school staff are aware of the school's CP policy and procedures, and know how to recognise and refer any concerns.
12. Ensuring that all staff receives basic Child Protection awareness training at least every two years, and that new/temporary staff are fully briefed on safeguarding procedures within the school
13. Providing an annual report for the Governing Body, detailing any training undertaken by staff and Governors, number and type of incidents/cases, referrals to Children's Social Care and children subject to Child Protection Plans (anonymised).
14. Notifying Social Care when a child attending the school is privately fostered.
15. Ensuring that any concerns about a pupil who leaves the school are forwarded under confidential cover to the Designated Person at the pupil's new school as a matter of urgency. The original copy of significant documents will be retained at our school, and photocopies forwarded as above.

Role of the Head Teacher

1. The head teacher has a clear overview of safeguarding procedures and practice.
2. The head teacher will ensure the safer recruitment of all new staff and has an awareness of the new vetting and barring process and takes account of the DCSF and other local guidance.
3. The head teacher will ensure that all staff are recruited using the guidance from HR
4. The head teacher ensures all policies and procedures adopted by the governing body are fully implemented and fully implemented and followed by staff.
5. The head teacher will ensure the designated member of staff (CPLO) will be supported at all times.
6. The head teacher will ensure the designated person is part of the senior management leadership team.
7. The head teacher will ensure the designated person (CPLO) is given sufficient time and resources to discharge their responsibilities, including taking part in inter-agency assessments and meetings.
8. The head teacher will ensure the designated person (CPLO) is appropriately trained to enable them to successfully cascade safeguarding awareness training to all other staff members on a regular basis, with or without the support of the Local Authority.
9. The head teacher will ensure all staff are fully aware of the procedures to be followed if an allegation or concerns was made regarding a member of staff. In all cases these would go straight to the head teacher unless the allegation was against the head teacher in which case it would go directly to the chair of governors.
10. The head teacher is responsible for ensuring that risk assessments are carried out, not only in relation to school activities, but in admitting or re-admitting pupils with behaviour that could place themselves or others at risk.
11. The head teacher will take effective steps to address any safeguarding concerns made by any member of school staff.
12. The head teacher will ensure that all staff and volunteers feel able to raise concerns about unsafe or poor safeguarding practice, but empowering them and ensuring they are aware they have a legal duty to do so.

The Role of the Chair of Governors

1. The governing body of our school is fully aware of its responsibilities regarding policy, procedures, monitoring compliance and reporting, as set out in DCSF and any locally agreed guidance.
2. All procedures for safe recruitment and vetting of staff take account of the DCSF and any other local guidance.
3. The governors have made sure:
 - an appropriate child protection policy and procedures are in place and they are made available to parents on request
 - a senior member of the school's leadership team is designated to take responsibility for dealing with child protection issues
 - appropriate training is undertaken by the designated person (refreshed every two years and attends 3 Network Meetings held by the local authority to up date on relevant in key information) and all staff (refreshed every two years),
 - that temporary staff or volunteers are made aware of the school's arrangements and responsibilities
 - there is a nominated member of the governing body responsibility for liaising with the local authority (LA) and / or other partner agencies in the event of an allegation being made against the head teacher
 - policies and procedures are reviewed annually by the governing body and it provides information to the LA about them and how their duties have been discharged.
4. The governors have appropriate procedures in place for managing safeguarding allegations or concerns about staff and volunteers?
5. The governors the head teacher and staff to account for the effectiveness of safeguarding arrangements in the school.
6. The governors will ensure at the annual review of the policy that appropriate training is in place for staff, governors and other relevant adults.
7. The governors will ensure that appropriate arrangements are in place to safeguard children who take part in or are affected by the provision of extended services and other school activities that take place outside of normal school hours, by following the Local Authorities Letting Policy.
8. The governors will ensure that the ethos of the school promotes positive practice in relation to safeguarding all their pupils and staff at all times