

Child Protection Policy

The school recognises that it has an explicit duty to safeguard and protect children from abuse as defined in the Children Act 2004 and the Education Act 2002. The overall intention and purpose behind the school's Child Protection Policy is underpinned by the fundamental principle of the Children Act 1989:

“the welfare of the child is paramount”

Everyone in our school shares an objective to help keep children safe by:

- Providing a safe environment for children to learn in;
- Supporting children's development in ways which will foster a sense of self esteem and independence;
- Identifying and responding to children in need of support and/or protection.

School commitment

- 1 Establish and maintain an ethos where children feel secure and are encouraged to talk, and are listened to.
- 2 Ensure all children have effective means of communication with more than one adult in school.
- 3 Give opportunities for class or group discussions of thoughts and feelings in an atmosphere of trust, acceptance and tolerance.
- 4 Include in the curriculum activities and opportunities for PSHE/Citizenship which equip children with the skills they need to stay safe from abuse.

Definition of Abuse

- **Physical Abuse**
Actual or likely physical injury to a child or young person under age 18, or failure to prevent physical injury.
- **Sexual Abuse**
Actual or likely sexual exploitation of a child or young person. The child may be dependent or developmentally immature.
- **Neglect**
The persistent or severe neglect of a child, or the failure to protect a child from exposure to any kind of danger, resulting in the significant impairment of a child's health or development, including a failure to thrive.
- **Emotional Abuse**
Severe or persistent emotional ill-treatment or rejection likely to cause adverse effects on the emotional and behavioural development of a child. All abuse involves some emotional ill-treatment.

Roles and Responsibilities

All adults working with or on behalf of children have responsibility to safeguard and promote the welfare of children.

All staff will be informed of their responsibilities in being alert to the signs of abuse and the procedures for referring concerns to the Designated Person.

The designated person for child protection and nominated governor for child protection will receive training every two years.

All new staff will receive induction training and all staff will have refresher training every three years.

Statistically children with behavioural difficulties and disabilities are more vulnerable to abuse. Staff need to be particularly sensitive to signs of abuse.

We will support staff by providing an opportunity to talk through their anxieties with the Designated Senior Person.

Staff will have access to advice on the boundaries of appropriate behaviour (outlined in Bristol's Health and Safety documents).

Ensure that any absence of two days, without satisfactory explanation, of a pupil currently on the child protection register is referred to their Education Welfare Officer and/or Social Worker.
Ensure that a named teacher is designated for Looked After Children (LAC) and that an up to date list of children is regularly reviewed and updated.

The Governing Body of our school is responsible for ensuring the annual review of the child protection policy and completing the monitoring form of child protection activity within the school.

Procedures

Where it is believed that a child is suffering from, or is at risk of, significant harm, we will follow the procedures set out by the Bristol Safeguarding Children's Board.

A flow chart of the procedure is displayed in the staff area.

Parents may access the school's child protection procedures via the school prospectus/website.

Telephone referrals to Social Care will be followed up in writing within 48 hours.

Written records of any concern regarding a child's safety will be kept in a file in a locked cabinet in the Assistant Head's office.

The school recognises that it does not have the responsibility to investigate cases of suspected child abuse.

We will co-operate with relevant external agencies in any enquiries regarding child protection matters, including representation at case conferences, core groups and multi-agency planning meetings.

Parents will be advised of the intention to refer to Social Care and their views and co-operation are sought, unless we have good reason to believe that to do so would place a child at greater risk of harm.

All staff will make it clear to any child disclosing information that they cannot guarantee confidentiality, but they will only pass the information on to the people that can help them. Information concerning children at risk will be shared with all members of staff on a “need to know” basis. The Designated Person will make a judgement in each individual case about who needs and has a right to access particular information.

Where there are concerns about a child, a teacher may be asked to keep a log of observations. This will be kept securely, separately from generally accessible pupil and class records.

All records are subject to the freedom of Information Act (2000) and the Data Protection Act (1998). If there is any doubt as to the rights of party to access information, we may seek legal advice prior to releasing any information.

Allegations against staff

All staff should be aware of their duty to raise concerns about the attitude or actions of colleagues. If a child makes an allegation against a member of staff, the Head teacher should be immediately informed.

The Head teacher/senior teacher will discuss the allegation with the Lead Officers for Child Protection for the Local Authority.

If the allegation concerns the behaviour of the Head teacher, the Chair of Governors should be immediately informed.

Designated Persons:	Mrs Jenny Taylor - Head
Deputy Designated Persons:	Miss Lilli Kielczewski & Miss Naomi Fowler
Nominated Governor:	Mrs Jo Willis

Related policies:

Anti-Bullying Policy
Behaviour Policy
Health & Safety Statement
Inclusion Policy
Sex and Relationships Education Policy
Safeguarding Policy

Next Review: March 2019