



PARKGATE PRIMARY SCHOOL

SAFEGUARDING
POLICY

CHILD PROTECTION



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| Originator: | M Downey |
| Amended | March 2010 |
| Review Date: | March 2011 |

KEY CONTACTS WITHIN THE SCHOOL

DESIGNATED CHILD PROTECTION CO-ORDINATOR

Mrs M J Downey, Headteacher

0151 336 1609

DEPUTY DESIGNATED CHILD PROTECTION CO-ORDINATOR

Mr D Jones, Deputy Headteacher

0151 336 1609

NOMINATED GOVERNOR FOR CHILD PROTECTION

Mrs A Nickson (to be contacted via the school)



Child Protection Policy

This policy has been formulated on the guidance and good practice outlines in the following statutory and quasi-statutory instruments, circulars and manuals.

- Working Together under the Children Act, December 1999 HMSO
- OFSTED: The Handbook for the Inspection of Schools.
- Cheshire Manual of Child Protection Procedures.
- Children Act 1989
- DES Circular 10/95 Protecting Children from Abuse: The Role of the Education Service
- Education (School Records) Regulations and DES Circular 17/89

Our school fully recognises the contribution it can make to protect all children and support pupils in school.

"Through their day to day contact with pupils, and direct work with families, education staff have a crucial role to play in noticing indicators of possible abuse or neglect, and in referring concerns to the appropriate agency, normally the social services department".

Working Together – Under the Children Act.

It is commonly felt that Child Protection is the joint responsibility of all the staff that work with children at Parkgate Primary School who do not work in isolation, but within the framework of multi-agency collaboration. This policy is endorsed by the Child Protection Governor and the full Governing Body.

Roles and Responsibilities

The Headteacher is the designated Child Protection Teacher and as such is the contact point for all staff on any Child Protection issues. In the absence of the Headteacher the Deputy Headteacher would be responsible for any Child Protection duties. The SENCO, would also be included in these cases. The school has also appointed a named Child Protection Governor - Amanda Nickson

The Headteacher has specific duties for:

- Liaison with the appropriate Social Services Department, District Education Office and other agencies concerning individual cases of actual or suspected abuse.
- Acting as a contact point with other agencies.
- Overseeing the planning of curricular provision in connection with Child Protection.
- Updating staff on Child Protection issues and ensuring training development and support.
- Reviewing and updating procedures and practices with reference to LSGB and national guidelines.

Training Procedures

- In accordance with the recommended good practice the Headteacher and designated Child Protection Governor will attend multi-disciplinary and relevant training courses.
- The Headteacher will up-date staff during INSET/staff meetings to disseminate knowledge from training.
- Strong links are maintained with the Education Welfare Service, County Psychology Service, Social Services, School Nurse and the County Child Protection Officers - Heidi Randle and Elaine Murray.

Record Keeping and Confidentiality

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 status of such records should be passed to other agencies.

- Access to Child Protection files is through the Headteacher.
- The school has an approved system for recording concerns about individuals and communicating those concerns on a "need to know" basis. A separate record is retained for each child and is marked Private and Confidential. The CONCERNS REGISTER is managed and maintained by the Learning Mentor
- Confidential information is transferred to other Primary and High Schools through close liaison with their appropriate personnel.
- The school has an in-house system for collating evidence for case conferences, reviews etc.
- All staff are responsible for adhering to the procedures involving actions to be taken and of their own monitoring role.
- When a child alleges abuse they do so in the probable expectation that help will result. Confidentiality in Child Protection is to protect the child. Staff must **NEVER** promise a child that they will keep any information to themselves, as there will be a point in an allegation when it is necessary to share this information with other professionals.
- Parents have no right to access school information relating to abuse. However, all factual information will be required in any subsequent case conference or court proceedings that may be attended by parents or child.

Attendance at Child Protection Conference

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 accompanied by the designated Child Protection member of staff.

Supporting Pupils at Risk

Our school recognises that children who are abused or who witness violence may find it difficult to develop a sense of worth and to view the world in a positive way. This school may be the only stable, secure and predictable element in the lives of the children at risk.

There is a need for a considered sensitive approach to individuals in order that the child can receive appropriate help and support.

We endeavour to support pupils through:

- ☺ The curriculum, to encourage self-esteem and self-motivation
- ☺ The school ethos, which promotes a positive, supportive and secure environment and which gives all pupils and adults a sense of being respected and valued
- ☺ The implementation of school behaviour management policies (required under the Code of Practice, 1993 Education Act)
- ☺ A consistent approach, which recognises and separates the cause of behaviour from that which the child displays.
- ☺ Regular liaison with other professionals and agencies who support the pupils and their families
- ☺ A commitment to develop productive, supportive relationships with parents - wherever it is in the child's interest to do so
- ☺ The development and support of a responsive and knowledgeable staff
- ☺ Implementation of the SEAL programme

It must also be stressed that in a home environment where there is domestic violence, drug or alcohol abuse, children may also be vulnerable and in need of support and protection.

Safe School, Safe Staff

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. However, where the Headteacher is the subject of an allegation this should be reported directly to the Chair of Governors, Mrs Jane Baker (to be contacted via the school), or the alternative designated member of staff, Mr D Jones, Deputy Headteacher.

The use of photographic images of children by schools

We aim to ensure children's safety and provide opportunities for parents and school to record "special moments" during their child's primary years. Parents are requested annually to give their permission for images of their child to be recorded.