



## **Child Protection Policy**

**ST HELENS PRIMARY SCHOOL**

**STATEMENT OF PRINCIPLES**

**September 2019**

**We believe that every child has the right to learn in a secure and safe environment and that no child has the right to disrupt the learning of others. We aim to ensure fairness for all children and to have a consistent response from all staff in line with our Behaviour, Safeguarding and Anti-Bullying Policies.**

**We encourage a positive relationship with parents and carers to develop a shared approach to involve them in the implementation of the school's Behaviour, Safeguarding and Anti-Bullying Policies.**

**All staff are aware that children with disabilities / SEN present additional challenges due to their vulnerability. Assumptions are that indicators of possible abuse relate to the child's disabilities. There is a potential for these children to be suffering abuse without showing outward signs and there maybe communication barriers and difficulties.**

### **Introduction**

St Helens Primary School fully recognises its responsibilities for safeguarding pupils. The school must provide a safe, nurturing environment where every individual feels valued.

1. The health, safety and wellbeing of all our children are of paramount importance to all the adults who work in our school. Our children have the right to protection,

regardless of age, gender, faith, race, culture or disability. They have a right to be safe in our school.

2. In our school we respect our children. We try to create an atmosphere that encourages all children to do their best. We provide opportunities that enable our children to take and make decisions for themselves.

3. Our teaching of personal, social and health education and citizenship, as part of the National Curriculum, helps to develop appropriate attitudes in our children and makes them aware of the impact of their decisions on others. We also teach them how to recognise different risks in different situations, and how to behave in response to them.

4. We will ensure that bullying is identified and dealt with. **Bullying is unacceptable and will not be tolerated.** (See Anti Bullying Policy and Physical Intervention/Restraining Policy).

5. Pupils' worries and fears will be taken seriously if they seek help from a member of staff. However, staff cannot guarantee confidentiality if concerns are such that referral must be made to the appropriate agencies in order to safeguard the child's welfare.

6. We recognise our legal duty to work with other agencies in protecting children from harm and responding to abuse.

7. All staff and the Governing Body have received appropriate training in Child Protection issues and procedures. This training is updated at least every three years.

The Designated Safeguarding Lead's (DSL's) training is updated every two years. The DSL will provide all staff with safeguarding and child protection updates at least annually.

8. In addition this policy and all procedures will be brought to the attention of all temporary/supply staff, through staff meetings, briefings and development days.

9. Parents and Carers are made aware of this Policy and all procedures through the School Prospectus and School Website, with a copy being available on request.

## **Aims and objectives**

This policy ensures that all staff in our schools are clear about the actions necessary with regard to a child protection issue. Its aims are:

- To raise the awareness of all staff and identify responsibility in reporting possible cases of abuse;
- To ensure effective communication between all staff when dealing with child protection issues;
- To lay down the correct procedures for those who encounter an issue of child protection.

## **Prevention**

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

The school community will therefore:

- Work to establish and maintain an ethos where children feel secure and are encouraged to talk and are always listened to.
  - Include regular consultation with children e.g. through safety questionnaires,
  - participation in anti-bullying week, asking children to report whether they have had happy/sad lunchtimes/playtimes.
  - Ensure that all children know there is an adult in the school whom they can approach if they are worried or in difficulty.
  - Include safeguarding across the curriculum, including PSHE, opportunities which equip children with the skills they need to stay safe from harm and to know to whom they should turn for help. In particular this will include anti-bullying work, e-safety, road safety, pedestrian and cycle training. Also focused work in Year 6 to prepare for transition to Secondary school and more personal safety/independent travel.
  - Ensure all staff are aware of school guidance for their use of mobile technology and have discussed safeguarding issues around the use of mobile technologies and their associated risks.
  - All staff are aware that abuse/ bullying from peer to peer can take place in a variety of different ways including sexting and cyber bullying and the school works hard with all stakeholders, including parents in order to be vigilant to such issues."
- Ensure pupils are protected from any forms of extremism or cultural pressures whilst in school. "To be alert to any signs or risks of our pupils being vulnerable to radicalisation and to follow the guidance set out by the government in its Prevent duty - departmental advice in such cases, making full use of existing local partnership arrangements." Educate them in a safe environment about the differences in world

cultures, the role of citizenship and community responsibility. Help young people to become resilient to messages of violence by developing skills to debate and analyse subjects in a safe environment, through the PHSE curriculum, among other methods.

## **Procedures**

1. The named DSL is the Head teacher, who over sees the day to day Child Protection procedures in the school but when she is not available she will delegate this responsibility to the Senior Teacher. In addition to fulfilling the responsibilities of staff and the senior management team, the DSL will also follow the role description set out in Annex B of Keeping Children Safe in Education 2016.

There is a safeguarding governor.

2. If any staff member has a concern regarding a child's welfare or suspects that a child in his/her class may be a victim of abuse, they must immediately inform the Head teacher or deputy in the Head's absence, about their concerns. All this information is recorded. Abuse can be of a sexual, emotional or physical nature. It can also be the result of neglect.

3. The school will keep a signed and dated record of concerns or uneasiness about children in the Concern file situated in the office even when there is no immediate need to refer the matter.

4. Any action that the DSL or their deputy takes when dealing with an issue of child protection will be in line with the procedures.

5. The school will ensure all records are kept securely; separate from the main pupil file and in a locked location.

6. All parties involved will handle investigations in a sensitive manner, but the interest of the child is of paramount importance.

7. If a child alleges abuse, the school reserves the right to make a referral to social services without communicating with the parents.

8. If a child protection referral is made and, after investigation, the child protection team decides there is a case to answer, a case conference is held. The case conference offers the opportunity to share information and formulate a plan of action. Staff are expected to provide written reports on the child's progress for the child protection coordinator who in turn is expected to attend and participate in all case conferences and meetings held under the CPC Guidelines.

9. School staff do not carry out investigations themselves, nor decide whether children have been abused. That is a matter for the specialist agencies.

10. We regard all information relating to individual child protection issues as confidential, and we treat this accordingly. We only pass information on to appropriate persons and we keep a confidential written record of any incidents.

11. We require all adults employed in school to have their application vetted through the Disclosure and Barring Service and the Children's Barred List (formerly List 99).

12. We ensure safe recruitment practices are always followed.

13. Where allegations are made against school staff, Child Protection Procedures will be followed. See note 21.

14. The DSL attends regular training to raise their awareness of abuse and their knowledge of agreed local child protection procedures, which they then share with staff.

15. Parents are expected to help children to behave in non-violent and non-abusive ways – towards both staff and other pupils.

16. There may be times when adults in our schools, in the course of their duty, use physical intervention to restrain children. The Head teacher requires the adult involved in any such incident to report this to her immediately and to record it in the interventions book located in the school office. (See Physical Restraint Policy)

17. Parents will be informed if it was necessary to use force to protect a pupil from injury or to prevent a pupil from harming others.

18. If parents have any complaints about staff behaviour they should be made to the Head teacher in the first instance. All those involved, both pupils and staff are entitled to a fair hearing.

19. If parents are not satisfied with the school's response, they can ask for a copy of our Complaints Policy and Procedures (available on website).

20. We recognise that children who are abused or witness violence may find it difficult to develop a sense of self-worth. School may be the only stable, secure and predictable environment in the lives of the children at risk. When they are at school their behaviour

may be challenging and defiant or withdrawn. The school will work with parents and all appropriate agencies to support the pupil through:

- The curriculum, especially PHSE.
- The school ethos which promotes a positive, supportive and secure environment and gives pupils a sense of being valued.
- The school's Behaviour Policy written to support vulnerable pupils, and while they should be aware that some behaviour is unacceptable, care should be taken to help them feel valued and not to blame for any abuse which has occurred.
- Liaison with other agencies such as CAMHS. EWOs, Educational Psychologists and Early help coordinator.
- Ensuring that when a pupil with a Safeguarding concern leaves the school their information is transferred to the new school immediately and the child's social worker is informed.

21. The safety of pupils is paramount and we will take all allegations of misconduct seriously, including allegations against members of staff or volunteers. Pupils making an allegation must be listened to carefully and the allegation should be reported immediately to the Headteacher. The allegation must be recorded accurately in writing and the Head teacher will work with the Chair of Governors and Principal Education Officer to establish whether suspension is appropriate. (See Guidance for suspension in 'Staff Subject to Allegations') and KCSiE 2016.

Allegations against the Head teacher must be taken equally seriously. If an allegation is made the Chair of Governors will follow local protocol and refer immediately to the LADO, working closely with the LA to establish whether suspension is the appropriate action. Details of local protocols and policies can be found on the **IOW LSCB** website. (See references).

An annual Child Protection Audit will be carried out under section 175, and it will be reviewed mid-year by the Head teacher and Safeguarding Governor.

### **Monitoring and review**

The governing body reviews all restraints/incidents detailed in the interventions book.

The Head teacher and Safeguarding governor complete the annual School Safeguarding Audit Form and review the Action Plan mid-year to ensure actions are put in place.

The named governor participates in the school's training with regard to the child protection procedures, reviews all relevant incidents and information, with an overview of procedures and actions taken being given to the Full Governing Body. This policy is reviewed annually by the governing body.

We will also ensure that;

- Children are taught about safeguarding, including on line, through teaching and learning opportunities.
- Appropriate filters and monitoring systems are in place to safeguard pupils from potentially harmful, inappropriate on line material and cyber bullying.
- Opportunities are provided for staff to contribute to and shape safeguarding arrangements and the child protection policy, so recognizing their experience and expertise.
- All staff read at least Part 1 of Keeping Children Safe in Education 2016
- Mechanisms are in place to assist staff to understand and discharge their role and responsibilities as set out in Part 1 KCSiE.

#### **References**

**See the following website for further information.**

[www.iowscb.org.uk](http://www.iowscb.org.uk)