



# **CHILD PROTECTION POLICY FOR SCHOOLS**

## **Child Protection Policy Great Horwood C. E. Combined School**

**The policy was reviewed Autumn 2008**

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### **1.0 Introduction**

1.1 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 <sup>1</sup>

Safeguarding Children and safer Recruitment in Education 2006

Buckinghamshire Area Child Protection Committee Multi-Agency Child Protection Code or Practice

1.2 The Governing Body takes seriously its responsibility under section 175 of the Education Act 2002 to safeguard <sup>2</sup> and promote the welfare of children; and to work together with other agencies to ensure adequate arrangements within our school to identify, assess, and support those children who are suffering harm.

1.3 We recognise that all staff<sup>3</sup> 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.

1.4 All staff believe that our school should provide a safe, caring, positive and stimulating environment that promotes the social, physical and moral development of the individual child.

1.5 The aims of this policy are:

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<sup>1</sup> What To Do If You Are Worried A Child is being Abused [www.doh.gov.uk/safeguardingchildren/index.htm](http://www.doh.gov.uk/safeguardingchildren/index.htm)

<sup>2</sup> 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”

<sup>3</sup> “Staff” covers ALL adult staff on site, including temporary, supply and ancillary staff, and volunteers working with children

- 1.5.1 To support the child's development in ways that will foster security, confidence and resilience.
- 1.5.2 To provide an environment in which children and young people feel safe, secure, valued and respected, feel confident and know how to approach adults if they are in difficulties.
- 1.5.3 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.
- 1.5.4 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.
- 1.5.5 To acknowledge the need for effective and appropriate communication between all members of staff in relation to safeguarding pupils.
- 1.5.6 To develop a structured procedure within the school, which will be followed by all members of the school community in cases of suspected abuse.
- 1.5.7 To develop effective working relationships with all other agencies, involved in safeguarding children.
- 1.5.8 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.

## **2.0 Procedures**

- 2.1 Our school procedures for safeguarding children will be in line with Buckinghamshire LEA and Buckinghamshire Area Child Protection Committee Child Protection Procedures, and "Working Together to Safeguard Children". We will ensure that:
  - 2.1.1 The Governing Body understands and fulfils its safeguarding responsibilities.
  - 2.1.2 We have a Designated Member of the Senior Leadership Team who has undertaken appropriate training for the role, as recommended by the LA, within the past two years. Our Designated Person will update their training with LA approved training every two years.
  - 2.1.3 We have a member of staff who will act in the Designated Senior Persons absence who has, also received training for the role of Designated Person, and, and who will have been briefed in the role. In the absence of an appropriately trained member of staff, the Headteacher will assume this role

- 2.1.4 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 Designated Person and the booklet "What to do if You're Worried a Child is Being Abused", and have these explained, as part of their induction into the school.
- 2.1.5 All members of staff are provided with opportunities at least every three years to receive training arranged or delivered by the Designated Person 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.
- 2.1.6 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.
- 2.1.7 Our lettings policy will seek to ensure the suitability of adults working with children on school sites at any time.
- 2.1.8 Community users organising activities for children are aware of and understand the need for compliance with the school's child protection guidelines and procedures.
- 2.1.9 Our selection and recruitment policy includes all checks on staff and regular volunteers' suitability including Criminal Records Bureau checks as recommended by the LEA and in accordance with current legislation.
- 2.1.10 The name of any member of staff considered not suitable to work with children will be notified to the DfES Teachers' Misconduct Team, with the advice and support of Human Resources and in accordance with the NEOST guidance and related regulations<sup>4</sup>
- 2.1.11 Our procedures will be annually reviewed and up-dated.
- 2.1.12 The name of the Designated Senior Person will be clearly shown in the school, with a statement explaining the school's role in referring and monitoring cases of suspected abuse.

### **3.0 Responsibilities**

- 3.1 We understand that our responsibility to safeguard children requires that we all appropriately share any concerns that we may have about children.
- 3.1.1 We have a Designated Senior Person who is responsible for:

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<sup>4</sup> The 'Barring Regulations' are the Procedures for Barring or Restricting People Working with Children in Education' DfES July 2003

- 3.1.2 Referring a child if there are concerns about a child's welfare, possible abuse or neglect to Social Care. A written referral using the Common Referral Form will be faxed/posted/emailed to Social Care as soon as possible within the school day.
- 3.1.3 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.
- 3.1.4 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.
- 3.1.5 Ensuring that an indication of further record-keeping is marked on the pupil records.
- 3.1.6 Acting as a focal point for staff concerns and liaising with other agencies and professionals.
- 3.1.7 Ensuring that either they or another appropriately informed member of staff attends case conferences, family support meetings, core groups, or other multi-agency planning meetings, contributes to the Framework for Assessments process, and provides a report which has been shared with the parents.
- 3.1.8 Ensuring 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
- 3.1.9 Ensuring that all school staff are aware of the school's CP policy and procedures, and know how to recognise and refer any concerns.
- 3.1.10 Providing, with the Headteacher, an annual report for the Governing Body, detailing any changes to the policy and procedures; training undertaken by the Designated Senior Person, and by all staff and Governors; number and type of incidents/cases, and number of children referred to children's Social Care and subject to Child Protection Plans (anonymised). The Governing Body will use this report to fulfil its responsibility to provide the LA with information about their Safeguarding policies and procedures.
- 3.1.11 Keeping themselves up to date with knowledge to enable them to fulfil their role, including attending relevant training, at least every two years, provided by the Buckinghamshire Safeguarding Children Board or the Safeguarding in Education Team.

#### **4.0 Supporting Children**

- 4.1 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.
- 4.2 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.
- 4.3 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.
- 4.4 Our school will support all pupils by:
  - 4.4.1 Encouraging the development of self-esteem and resilience in every aspect of school life including through the curriculum.
  - 4.4.2 Promoting a caring, safe and positive environment within the school.
  - 4.4.3 Liaising and working together with all other support services and those agencies involved in the safeguarding of children.
  - 4.4.4 Notifying Social Care as soon as there is a significant concern.
  - 4.4.5 Ensuring that a named teacher is designated for Looked After Children (LAC) and that an up to date list of children who are subject to a Care Order or are accommodated by the Local Authority is regularly reviewed and updated. The Education of Children in Public Care (ECPC) Team must be made aware of all LAC in the school.
  - 4.4.6 Notifying Social Care when a child attending the school is privately fostered.
  - 4.4.7 Providing continuing support to a pupil (about whom there have been concerns) who leaves the school by ensuring that such concerns and school medical records are forwarded under confidential cover to the Headteacher at the pupil's new school as a matter of urgency, a photocopy of these records should be kept in a confidential file.

## **5.0 Confidentiality**

- 5.1 We recognise that all matters relating to child protection are confidential.
- 5.2 The Headteacher or Designated Senior Person will disclose personal information about a pupil to other members of staff on a need to know basis only.

- 5.3 However, all staff must be aware that they have a professional responsibility to share information with other agencies in order to safeguard children.
- 5.4 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.
- 5.5 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. If in doubt, we will consult with the Safeguarding in Education Team or Social Care on this point.

## **6.0 Supporting Staff**

- 6.1 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.
- 6.2 We will support such staff by providing an opportunity to talk through their anxieties with the Designated Senior Person and to seek further support. This could be provided by the Headteacher or another trusted colleague, Occupational Health, and/or a representative of a professional body or trade union, as appropriate.
- 6.3 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.
- 6.4 We recognise that our Designated person(s) should have access to support (as in 6.2 above) and appropriate workshops, course or meetings as organised by the LA.

## **7.0 Allegations against staff**

- 7.1 All school staff should take care not to place themselves in a vulnerable position with a child. It is always advisable for interviews or work with individual children or parents to be conducted in view of other adults. (See also 6.3 above)
- 7.2 All staff should be aware of the school's behaviour/discipline policy This can be found in staff curriculum folder and curriculum folder in the Staff room.
- 7.3 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 Headteacher or the most senior teacher if the Headteacher is not present.

- 7.3.1 The Headteacher/senior teacher on all such occasions will discuss the content of the allegation with the Safeguarding Manager or Lead Officer for Child Protection.
- 7.3.2 If the allegation made to a member of staff concerns the Headteacher, the person receiving the allegation will immediately inform the Chair of Governors who will consult as in 7.3.1 above, without notifying the Headteacher first.
- 7.3.3 The school will follow the LEA procedures for managing allegations against staff, a copy of which can be found in the file in the staff room marked ALLEGATIONS AGAINST STAFF
- 7.3.4 Suspension of the member of staff against whom an allegation has been made needs careful consideration, and we will consult (as in 7.3.2. above) in making this decision.
- 7.3.5 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.

## **8.0 Whistleblowing**

- 8.1 We recognise that children cannot be expected to raise concerns in an environment where staff fail to do so.
- 8.2 All staff should be aware of their duty to raise concerns about the attitude or actions of colleagues. If necessary, they should speak to the delegated 'whistleblowing' Governor or the Lead Officer for Child Protection

## **9.0 Physical Intervention/Positive Handling**

- 9.1 Our policy on physical intervention/positive handling by staff is set out separately, as part of our Behaviour Policy. It complies with DfES guidance on positive handling strategies (2001) and circular 10/98, 'The Use of Force to Control or Restrain Pupils'. This guidance states that staff must only ever use physical intervention as a last resort, eg. 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.
- 9.2 Such events should be recorded and signed by a witness.
- 9.3 Staff who are likely to need to use physical intervention should be appropriately trained.
- 9.4 We understand that physical intervention of a nature which causes injury or distress to a child, may be considered under child protection or disciplinary procedures.

## **10.0 Anti-Bullying**

- 10.1 Our policy on the prevention and management of bullying is set out in a separate policy and acknowledges that to allow or condone bullying may lead to consideration under child protection procedures.

## **11.0 Racist Incidents**

- 11.1 Our policy on racist incidents is set out in a separate policy and acknowledges that repeated racist incidents or a single serious incident may lead to consideration under child protection procedures.

## **12.0 Prevention**

- 12.1 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.

- 12.2 The school community will therefore:

- 12.2.1 Establish and maintain an ethos, which is understood by all staff, which enables children to feel secure and encourages them to talk knowing that they will be listened to.

- 12.2.2 Ensure that all children know there is an adult in the school whom they can approach if they are worried or in difficulty.

- 12.2.3. Provide 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.

## **14.0 Health & Safety**

- 14.1 Our Health & Safety policy, set out in a separate document, reflects the consideration we give to the protection of our children both physically within the school environment and, for example, in relation to internet use, and when away from the school when undertaking school trips and visits.

## **5.0 Policy Review**

- 15.1 The Governing Body of our school is responsible for ensuring the annual review of this policy, and for reporting back to the LEA