

Policy for Safeguarding Pupils

This policy applies to all staff, Governors and volunteers working in St Cuthbert's CE Primary School. We recognise that lunchtime staff, administrative staff and volunteers as well as teachers or peers could be the first point of disclosure for a child.

The Government has defined the term 'safeguarding children' as:

'The process of protecting children from abuse or neglect, preventing impairment of their health and development, and ensuring they are growing up in circumstances consistent with the provision of safe and effective care that enables children to have optimum life chances and enter adulthood successfully.'

School Philosophy

We believe that St Cuthbert's School should provide a caring, positive, safe and stimulating environment which promotes the social, physical and moral development of the individual child.

1. Aims of the Policy

- 1) To support the child's development in ways that foster security, confidence and independence.
- 2) To raise the awareness of both teaching and non-teaching staff of the need for Child Protection and their responsibilities in identifying and reporting possible causes of abuse.
- 3) To provide a systematic means of monitoring children known or thought to be at risk.
- 4) To emphasise the need for good levels of communication between all members of staff. To develop a structured internal procedure to be followed by all members of the school community in cases of suspected abuse.
- 5) To promote understanding and build relationships with other agencies in order to work more efficiently
- 6) To check the criminal background of all adults regularly coming into contact with the children.

A definition of child abuse:

'Child abuse consists of anything which individuals, institutions or processes do or fail to do which directly or indirectly harms children or damages their prospects of a safe and healthy development into childhood.'

2. Prevention

We recognise that high self-esteem, confidence, supportive friends and good lines of communication with a trusted adult help in safeguarding children. The school will therefore:

- a. Seek to maintain an ethos where children feel secure, are encouraged to talk and are listened to.
- b. Ensure that children know that there are adults in the school whom they can approach if they are worried or in difficulty.
- c. Include in the curriculum, opportunities for PSHCE which will equip children with the skills they need to:
 - Stay safe from abuse
 - Have confidence to seek help
 - Know where to go for help

3. Procedures

We will follow the procedures set out by North Yorkshire County Council and available on www.safeguardingchildren.co.uk - The website of the North Yorkshire Safeguarding Board.

The Governing Body will ensure that:

- a. The school has a designated member of staff who has undertaken at least a foundation-training course provided by the LA. The designated member of staff is the headteacher and in her absence the designated Child Protection Teacher is the Home School Link worker.
- b. All members of staff develop an understanding of the signs and indicators of abuse and how to respond to a pupil who may disclose abuse.
- c. Parents have an understanding of the responsibility of the school and staff for child protection by including information in the school prospectus.

The designated teacher is responsible for:

- a. Adhering to the procedures set out in our Child Protection and Safeguarding policies.
- b. Notify the education welfare officer if there is an unexplained absence of a pupil on the Child Protection Register of more than two days.
- c. Keeping written records of concerns about children even where there is no real need to make a formal referral to social services immediately.
- d. Keeping all records in a secure location.

Every member of staff, both teaching and non-teaching, and every governor are responsible for ensuring that they know:

- The name of the designated person and his/her role
- That they have an individual responsibility for referring child protection concerns to the head teacher using the LA forms for EWO issues
- Copies of the Child Protection procedures to be followed are located in the office
- The school security and safeguarding procedures.

4. Supporting Children

Our school will support all children by:

- a. Encouraging self-esteem and self-assertiveness whilst never condoning aggression or bullying.
- b. By promoting a school ethos of a caring, positive and safe environment, this promotes the social, physical and moral development of the individual child.
- c. Liaising with other agencies which support the child such as Education Welfare, Social Care and Health, Children and Young People's Service and Integrated Children's Services
- d. Keeping records and notifying Social Care and Health as soon as there is significant concern.
- e. Informing the Education Welfare Officer and the receiving head teacher when a pupil on the Child Protection Register leaves, forwarding the information, under confidential cover, immediately.
- f. Implementing the anti-bullying policy.
- g. Following a referral staff should remain sensitive to children's emotional needs.
- h. Ensuring that each child has identified a member of staff that would potentially be their first point of disclosure.

We recognise that the child who is abused or witnesses violence may find it difficult to develop a sense of self-worth. They may feel helpless, humiliated and feel that they are in some way to blame.

School may be the only stability in the lives of children at risk.

5. Confidentiality

All matters relating to child protection are confidential and the headteacher/designated teacher will disclose any such information on a need-to-know basis only. The headteacher will refer to other agencies to seek advice where appropriate.

Staff, governors and volunteers do need to be aware however, that they have a professional responsibility to share information about the protection of children with other agencies.

Staff cannot keep secrets and must refer disclosed information to the appropriate agencies.

Child protection records are kept securely locked.

A copy of this policy will be placed on the school website.

Reviewed Summer 2016

Review Summer 2017

To be read in conjunction with the Child Protection Policy