



Child Protection Policy

Amended by:	Laura Willcocks
Date agreed by Headteacher/Governing Body:	September 2017
Next review date:	September 2018

Child Protection Policy

1 Introduction

1.1 Abuse takes a variety of forms:

- Physical abuse involves the hitting, shaking or other treatment of a child that can cause actual bodily harm.
- Sexual abuse involves forcing or enticing a child into sexual activities, whether or not the child is aware about what is happening. This includes non-contact situations, such as showing children pornography.
- Emotional abuse is the persistent emotional ill-treatment of children, such as frightening them, or putting them in positions of danger. It is also an abuse to convey to children the feeling that they are worthless or unloved.
- Children are abused also if they are neglected. This could involve failure to provide proper food and warmth, but it might also be failure to see to the emotional well-being of the child.

1.2 The health, safety and well-being of all our children are of paramount importance to all the adults who work in our federation. Our children have the right to protection, regardless of age, gender, race, culture or disability. They have a right to be safe in our federation.

1.3 In our federation we respect our children. The atmosphere within our federation is one that encourages all children to do their best. We provide opportunities that enable our children to take and make decisions for themselves.

1.4 We recognise that abuse and neglect can result in underachievement. We strive to ensure that all our children make good educational progress.

1.5 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.

2 Aims

2.1 The purpose of this policy is to ensure that all our staff are clear about the actions necessary with regard to a child protection issue. Our aims are:

- to raise the awareness of all staff, and to identify responsibility for reporting possible cases of abuse
- to ensure effective communication between all staff on child protection issues;
- to set down the correct procedures for those who encounter an issue of child protection.

3 Procedures

3.1 Our Executive Headteacher, Mrs Cathy Smart is the Designated Teacher for Child Protection within our Federation. Mrs Laura Willcocks, Deputy, Charlotte Coppenhall, Head of Foundation and Key Stage 1 and Pete Griffiths, Head of Maths are also named Safeguarding officers.

In her role as Designated Teacher, she is guided by two principles:

- In accordance with the Children Act, the welfare of the child is always paramount.
- Confidentiality should be respected as far as possible.

A key role of the named teacher for Child Protection is to be fully conversant with the procedures of the Area Child Protection Committee (ACPC) and to ensure that the federation takes action to support any child who may be at risk. The named teacher must also make sure that all staff, teaching and non-teaching, are aware of their responsibilities in relation to Child Protection.

3.2 If teachers suspect that a child in their class may be a victim of abuse, they should not try to investigate, but should immediately inform the named person (see 3.1) about their concerns. Abuse can be of a physical, sexual or emotional nature. It can also be the result of neglect.

Staff must not keep to themselves any information about abuse which a child gives them; they are required by law to pass this information on.

3.3 Any action that the named person takes when dealing with an issue of child protection must be in accordance with the procedures outlined in the LA Child Protection guidelines.

3.4 The federation's Designated Teacher/s for Child Protection works closely with the Social Services department and the Area Child Protection Committee (ACPC) when investigating any allegations of abuse. All parties involved handle such investigations in a sensitive manner, but remembering that the interest of the child is of paramount importance.

3.5 If a child alleges abuse, the school usually makes a referral without communicating with parents first. In some circumstances we inform parents first.

3.6 If a child protection referral is made, a case conference is held within eight working days of the decision. The case conference offers the opportunity to share information and formulate a plan of action. Staff are expected to attend and participate in all case conferences and meetings held under the LA guidelines.

3.7 We regard all information relating to individual child protection issues as confidential, and we treat it accordingly. We pass information on to appropriate persons only.

3.8 We inform the child at all stages of who is involved, and what information we have given them.

3.9 We require all adults seeking employment in our federation to have an enhanced DBS, in order to ensure that there is no evidence of offences involving the abuse of children.

3.10 There may be times when adults in our federation, in the course of their duty, use physical intervention to restrain children. The Executive Headteacher requires the adult involved in any such incident to report this to him/her immediately, and to record it in the interventions book.

3.11 All adults in our federation receive regular training to raise their awareness of abuse and their knowledge of the child protection procedures that have been agreed locally.

3.12 All the adults in our federation share responsibility for keeping our children safe. We may, on occasion, report concerns which, on investigation, prove unfounded. It is better to be safe than sorry, and we trust that parents, while they will naturally be upset by any investigation, will accept that the federation acted in the child's best interests.

4 Confidentiality

4.1 We comply with the government requirements and by the LA with regard to confidentiality. The files we keep on children are open to parents. Information from third parties will not be disclosed without their prior consent. Access to these files may be withheld in certain prescribed cases where there are instances of actual or alleged abuse. Working notes are not subject to disclosure, but will be summarised and then kept on file. These guidelines of ours are in line with the safeguards on disclosure of information set out in the Education (school records) Regulations 1989.

5 Monitoring and review

5.1 The Governing Body are kept fully informed by the Executive Headteacher who reports to them. A named Governor participates in the federation's training with regard to child protection procedures. This policy is reviewed annually by the Governing Body.