



St Catherine Catholic Primary School **Child Protection Policy**

1. This policy has been authorised by the Governors, is addressed to all pupils, members of staff, governors, volunteers and visitors to the school. It is freely available and is published on the School website. It applies wherever staff or volunteers are working with pupils even when they are away from the School, for example at an activity centre or on an educational visit.
2. The welfare of our pupils will always be our central concern informed by the School's ethos and by legal requirements. Pupils are actively encouraged to raise personal and general concerns with members of staff.

“Because of their day to day contact with individual children during the school terms, teachers and other school staff are particularly well placed to observe the outward signs of abuse, changes in behaviour or failure to develop.”

(Working Together under the Children Act 1989)

3. The Designated Safeguarding Lead (Head teacher) and the Deputy Designated Safeguarding Leads have very important roles in being available to all members of the school community to offer advice on matters relating to safeguarding. Responsibility for the welfare of pupils rests with all staff, but particularly with Senior Leaders in the school.
4. The Governors of St Catherine School, are fully and properly informed of matters relating to Child Protection and Safeguarding. The Governors have full access to all the facts surrounding Child Protection concerns and the School's response, as and when it is appropriate. They have overall responsibility for the response made and to those in their care when events took place. To support them in that work, a Governor is identified as having a role in and commitment to Child Protection and Safeguarding.
5. The Designated Safeguarding Lead, supported by the Deputy Designated Safeguarding Lead, will ensure that the performance of the safeguarding and child protection regime is reported to regular meetings of the Governing Body (see the Designated Safeguarding Lead's responsibilities below). Exceptional incidents will be reported to the Chair.
6. Staff should be aware that safeguarding incidents could happen anywhere and therefore staff should be alert and raise concerns as soon as they occur.

7. All staff should be aware of the challenges faced by pupils in understanding what they are being asked and in explaining what has happened to them. While staff must be mindful of the importance of not leading or suggesting, they will need to ensure that the pupils understand and are understood. Many pupils will choose to have a member of staff with them if they have any interviews or meetings with outside agencies and will be made aware of the opportunity to do so.

Commitment

8. St Catherine School is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people and requires all staff and volunteers to share that commitment. The School will take measures to:
 - a) ensure that we practise safer recruitment in checking the suitability of staff and volunteers (including staff employed by another organisation) to work with children and young people in accordance with the guidance given in *Keeping Children Safe in Education*.
 - b) ensure that we carry out all necessary checks on the suitability of people who serve on the School's governing body in accordance with the above regulations and guidance given in *Keeping Children Safe in Education*.
 - c) ensure that where the School ceases to use the services of any person (whether employed, contracted, a volunteer or pupil) because that person has engaged in conduct that harmed (or is likely to harm) a child or if they otherwise pose a risk of harm to a child, a detailed report is made to the Independent Safeguarding Authority (ISA) as soon as possible and in any event within one month; ceasing to use a person's services includes dismissal; non-renewal of a fixed-term contract; no longer engaging/refusing to engage a supply teacher provided by an employment agency; terminating the placement of a student teacher or other trainee; no longer using staff employed by contractors; no longer using volunteers; resignation, and voluntary withdrawal from supply teaching, contract working, a course of initial teacher training, or volunteering.
 - d) ensure that referrals are always made to the Independent Safeguarding Authority (ISA) as provided for in this Policy whether the issue to be referred is current or historical.
 - e) ensure that whenever staff from another organisation are working with our pupils on another site, we have received assurances from competent authorities within that organisation, that appropriate child protection checks and procedures apply to those staff.
 - f) follow the All London Child Protection Procedures.

- g) protect each pupil from any form of abuse, whether from an adult or another pupil.
- h) be alert to signs of abuse both in the School and from outside.
- i) deal appropriately with each suspicion or allegation of abuse against a member of staff, volunteer or governor in accordance with *“Dealing with Allegations of Abuse against Teachers and Other Staff”*, and by consulting with the Local Authority Designated Safeguarding Lead (LADO).
- j) operate procedures which promote this policy.
- k) operate procedures which, so far as possible, ensure that teachers and others who are innocent are not prejudiced by false allegations.
- l) support children who have been abused in accordance with an agreed multi-agency child protection plan if applicable.
- m) be alert to the medical needs of children with medical conditions.
- n) operate robust health & safety procedures.
- o) ensure that School premises are as secure as circumstances permit.
- p) provide staff with training about taking sensible steps when working with individual pupils to ensure they are not in secluded or private areas.
- q) operate clear and supportive policies on drugs, alcohol and substance misuse.
- r) deal with any other safeguarding issues which may be specific to individual children in our Schools; have regard to guidance issued by the Secretary of State for Education (DfE) in accordance with section 157 of the Education Act 2002 and associated regulations, the main sources of guidance currently being: *Keeping Children Safe in Education, What to Do If You’re Worried a Child Is Being Abused, and Dealing with Allegations of Abuse against Teachers and Other Staff.*
- s) maintain a positive school atmosphere which will help prevent incidents from occurring, supported by the teaching and pastoral support offered to pupils.

9. Every child protection concern, complaint, or suspicion of abuse from within or outside the School will be taken seriously and followed up and, as set out in this policy, will be referred to an external authority such as the Local Authority Designated Safeguarding Lead (LADO) Children's Services, or child protection lead for education. In each case, the matter will be referred to Children's Services and where appropriate, Children's Services in the child's home area. This includes allegations of historic abuse. In the case of those working in a school, the guidance in *Dealing with Allegations of Abuse against Teachers and Other Staff* is specific, namely that the employer (school) should report to the Local Authority Designated Safeguarding Lead (LADO) all cases where it is alleged that a person who works with children has:
- behaved in a way that has harmed a child, or may have harmed a child;
 - possibly committed a criminal offence against or related to a child; or
 - behaved towards a child or children in a way that indicates s/he is unsuitable to work with children.

Roles and responsibilities

10. The Designated Safeguarding Lead for Child Protection
- The School has appointed a senior member of staff with the necessary status and authority (Designated Person) to be responsible for matters relating to child protection and welfare. The main responsibilities of the Designated Person are:
- a) To be the first point of contact for parents, pupils, teaching and non-teaching staff and external agencies in all matters of child protection.
 - b) To be fully conversant with the Local Authority and School Child Protection and Safeguarding Policy and procedures.
 - c) To be available to all staff of the School community for consultation on child protection issues.
 - d) To co-ordinate the child protection procedures in the School.
 - e) To maintain an ongoing training programme for all School employees.
 - f) To monitor the keeping, confidentiality and storage of records in relation to child protection.
 - g) To liaise with the Local Authority Designated Safeguarding Lead (LADO).
 - h) To ensure that appropriate action is taken in the School and that procedures are followed in all Child Protection concerns and actual or suspected cases of child abuse.
 - i) To contact the duty social worker within twenty-four hours to seek advice on concerns brought by staff, volunteers or pupils. To also check whether or not the pupil or pupil's family involved is known to Children's Services.
 - j) To monitor records of pupils in the School who are subject to a child protection plan. To ensure that their records are maintained and updated as notification is received.

- k) To liaise with other professionals to ensure that children who are subject to a child protection plan are monitored.
- l) Where appropriate, to take part in the child protection conferences or reviews. When the Designated Safeguarding Lead cannot attend, he or she will ensure that the Deputy Designated Safeguarding Lead or a key member of staff attends. Where this is not possible, to provide a written report to the conference from the School. (It is acknowledged that this should occur rarely as the involvement of School staff is vital given the close involvement with the child.)
- m) To inform the child's Social Worker in writing when a child who is subject to a child protection plan moves to another School and to inform the new School of the child's status.
- n) In consultation with the Deputy Designated Safeguarding Lead, to monitor staff development and training needs with regard to child protection issues and to ensure that training provided is current and relevant.
- o) To ensure that the curriculum offers opportunities for raising pupil awareness of child protection issues and developing strategies for ensuring their own protection, for example through the personal, social, health and citizenship education (PSHCE) programme, and reflect this in the school improvement plan.
- p) Together with the School Leadership Team, annually to review the School's Policy on Child Protection and Safeguarding and look at how the duties have been discharged, and to report on this to the Board of Governors.

11. In the absence of the Designated Safeguarding Lead a Deputy Designated Safeguarding Lead, who must be nominated in advance, must take responsibility for child protection issues within the School.

They will (for each respective school/department):

- advise and act upon all Child Protection concerns reported to him or her.
- keep the Headteacher informed of all actions unless the Headteacher is the subject of a complaint. In this situation, the Deputy Designated Safeguarding Lead should consult with the Chair of Governors or in his or her absence, the Vice Chair.
- liaise with Children's Services and other agencies on behalf of the School.
- Carry out any other duties normally conducted by the Designated Safeguarding Lead.

12. If the Designated Safeguarding Lead is unavailable or is him/herself the subject of a complaint, his / her duties will be carried out by the other Designated Safeguarding Lead or a Deputy Designated Safeguarding Lead who has received appropriate training in safeguarding and inter-agency working.

Employees, Governors, School Advisors and Volunteers

13. The Headteacher and all other employees of the School, as well as every Volunteer and School Advisor who works with pupils, is under a general legal duty:
- a) to protect children from abuse and promote their welfare.
 - b) to be aware of the School's practice and policies on Safeguarding and Child Protection and to follow them.
 - c) to know how to access and implement the procedures, independently if necessary.
 - d) in dealing with a child protection issue to remain as objective as possible, never assuming that they know which categories of children are at risk.
 - e) to keep an appropriate record of any significant complaint, conversation or event. Information should be recorded verbatim, if possible. They should not prompt, lead or suggest information to the child.
 - f) to refer to the Designated Safeguarding Lead (or in his/her absence, the Deputy Designated Safeguarding Lead) immediately.
 - g) in the case of allegations brought against a colleague, to refer the incident to the Designated Safeguarding Lead who will then refer this to the Head teacher immediately (please see the section below on Staff Allegations).
 - h) to undertake appropriate training including induction training and refresher training at regular intervals required by each individual course e.g. every two or three years.

Whistle blowing

14. All staff are required to report to the Designated Safeguarding Lead any concern or allegations about school practices or the behaviour of colleagues or pupils which are likely to put pupils at risk of abuse or other serious harm. Such reports are made to the Head teacher / Designated Safeguarding Lead and the Local Authority Designated Safeguarding Lead (LADO). There will be no retribution or disciplinary action taken against a member of staff for making such a report provided that it is done in good faith. There is a separate policy on Whistle blowing which should be read in conjunction with this summary.

Safer recruitment and Checks

15. The school is committed to ensuring that all staff and volunteers who work in the school have been thoroughly checked for their suitability to work with children.
16. All job adverts and related paperwork will make clear that school is committed to safeguarding children at all times.
17. Any paid members of staff must have a full DBS check in order to work in the school.

18. Governors should also have full DBS checks.
19. Visitors who provide educational activities must show evidence of a DBS check when they arrive at the school, and must not be left unsupervised.
20. Volunteers who will be supervised will be subject to a list 99 check carried out by the school before they can begin. Volunteers who are running unsupervised activities must provide a current DBS check.
21. All staff and volunteers will be asked to complete a Childcare Disqualification Requirement declaration form before working in school.

Training

22. The Designated Safeguarding Leads have undertaken child protection training and training in inter-agency working and will attend refresher training at two yearly intervals. The Deputy Designated Safeguarding Leads with responsibilities for child protection issues, as detailed in this policy, also undertake this same training. This will normally be Designated Safeguarding Leads' training as provided by Hillingdon Local Safeguarding Children Board.
23. All other staff and volunteers undertake training in child protection and safeguarding and this is updated at least every three years.
24. Records of training will be monitored by Governors.
25. Every year at the beginning of the school year, all staff and volunteers who work in the school are reminded of the provisions in this Child Protection and Safeguarding Policy.
26. Every recruitment panel includes at least one member of staff who has undergone safer recruitment training with refresher training every three years.
27. The Governors will receive appropriate and up-to-date child protection and safer recruitment training to ensure they have the knowledge and information needed to perform their functions and understand their responsibilities. Refresher training will occur every three years.
28. If they have not attended the training for staff generally, temporary and voluntary staff who work with children are made aware of the School's arrangements for safeguarding and their responsibilities as above whilst they are waiting to attend the next available safeguarding course.

29. The school office will keep a central record of all safeguarding training undertaken by members of staff and others.
30. The Designated Safeguarding Lead will attend, wherever possible, the Safeguarding Schools Cluster Meeting, which will meet at least termly and whose members can be gathered for advice at any time. This meeting is a good opportunity to share good practice and to outline concerns. It is chaired by the Child Protection Lead for Education.

Child abuse: Categories and definitions

31. Possible signs of abuse include (but are not limited to):

- the pupil says s/he has been abused or asks a question which gives rise to that inference.
- there is no reasonable or consistent explanation for a pupil's injury; the injury is unusual in kind or location; there have been a number of injuries; there is a pattern to the injuries.
- the pupil's behaviour stands out from the group as either being extreme model behaviour or extremely challenging behaviour; or there is a sudden change in the pupil's behaviour.
- the pupil asks to drop subjects with a particular teacher and seems reluctant to discuss the reasons.
- the pupil's development is delayed.
- the pupil loses or gains weight.
- the pupil appears neglected, e.g. dirty, hungry, inadequately clothed.
- the pupil is reluctant to go home, or has been openly rejected by his/her parents or carers.
- The pupil is reluctant to go to school.

Physical Abuse

32. Physical abuse may involve hitting, shaking, throwing, poisoning, burning or scalding, drowning, suffocating, or otherwise causing physical harm to a child. Physical harm may also be caused when a parent or carer fabricates the symptoms of, or deliberately induces, illness in a child.

Possible signs of Physical Abuse:

33. Hitting, squeezing, biting or twisting a child's arms or legs can cause injuries like bruises, grazes, cuts or broken bones. Sometimes someone burns a child, perhaps by holding a part of the body against something very hot or by scalding. Poisoning a child, perhaps by giving them alcohol or drugs, is also physical abuse. Older children may seek to conceal such injuries by keeping their arms and legs covered or being reluctant to change for sport. Responsible staff need to be especially concerned about:
- injuries which do not match the explanation given for them
 - bruises in places where you would not normally expect to find them, in soft tissue, for example, rather than on the bony prominence
 - bruises which have a distinctive shape or pattern, like hand prints, grasp or finger marks or belt marks
 - burns or scalds with clear outlines
 - bite marks and bruises like love-bites.
- bruising in or around the mouth.

Emotional Abuse

34. Emotional abuse is the persistent emotional maltreatment of a child such as to cause severe and persistent adverse effects on the child's emotional development. It may involve conveying to children that they are worthless or unloved, inadequate, or valued only insofar as they meet the needs of another person. It may feature age or developmentally inappropriate expectations being imposed on children. These may include interactions that are beyond the child's developmental capability, as well as overprotection and limitation of exploration and learning, or preventing the child participating in normal social interaction. It may involve seeing or hearing the ill-treatment of another. It may involve serious bullying, causing children frequently to feel frightened or in danger, or the exploitation or corruption of children. Some level of emotional abuse is involved in all types of maltreatment of a child, though it may occur alone.

Possible signs of Emotional Abuse:

35. This form of abuse may result in a child becoming withdrawn, nervous, and unhappy or lacking in confidence. It may result in a child being unable to make friends, perhaps because they behave aggressively or inappropriately towards other children. Emotional abuse may happen when a carer behaves in a persistently indifferent or hostile way towards a child, perhaps through bullying, rejecting, frightening, criticising or scapegoating the child. It may happen when a carer's behaviour is inconsistent so that the child never knows what reaction to expect. It may happen when carers are very possessive or over-protective. In severe cases, children may be subjected to cruel treatment and punishment, like being locked in cold, dark surroundings or being made to do endless, inappropriate household tasks. A child living with domestic violence is

also suffering emotional harm. Responsible staff should be especially concerned about a child who:

- is continually depressed and withdrawn.
- runs away or who is frightened to go home.
- is reluctant to attend school.
- is persistently blamed for things that go wrong.
- is made to carry out tasks inappropriate to their age.
- is not allowed to do normal childhood activities.
- displays excessive fear of their parents or carers.
- is excessively clingy and tearful.

Sexual Abuse

36. The definition given in *Working Together to Safeguard Children* is as follows.

Sexual abuse involves forcing or enticing a child or young person to take part in sexual activities, not necessarily involving a high level of violence, whether or not the child is aware of what is happening. The activities may involve physical contact, including assault by penetration (for example, rape or oral sex) or non-penetrative acts such as masturbation, kissing, rubbing and touching outside of clothing. They may also include non-contact activities, such as involving children in looking at, or in the production of, sexual images, watching sexual activities, encouraging children to behave in sexually inappropriate ways, or grooming a child in preparation for abuse (including via the internet). Sexual abuse is not solely perpetrated by adult males. Women can also commit acts of sexual abuse, as can other children.

The key elements in any definition of sexual abuse are:

- the betrayal of trust and responsibility.
- abuse of power for the purpose of the sexual gratification of the abuser.

Possible signs of sexual abuse:

37. The abuser may use different ways to persuade the child to cooperate such as bribery, threats or physical force. Sexual abuse can take different forms, from touching to intercourse, and often does not cause any outward signs of physical injury. It can happen to boys as well as girls and to children of any age, from birth to 18 years old. Sexual abuse can have long lasting effects. Some children who have been abused go on to abuse other children. Some find as they grow up that they are unable to have close relationships with other people. Others deliberately injure themselves because they feel so awful about themselves.

Be especially concerned about a child who:

- exhibits sexually explicit behaviour.
- has inappropriate sexual knowledge for his or her age.
- attempts suicide or self-inflicts injuries.
- repeatedly runs away from home.

Neglect

38. Neglect is the persistent failure to meet a child's basic physical and/or psychological needs, likely to result in the serious impairment of the child's health or development. Neglect may affect a foetus during pregnancy as a result of maternal substance abuse. Once a child is born, neglect may involve a parent or carer failing to:

- provide adequate food, clothing and shelter (including exclusion from home or abandonment).
- protect a child from physical and emotional harm or danger.
- ensure adequate supervision (including the use of inadequate care-givers).
- ensure access to appropriate medical care or treatment.

It may also include neglect of, or unresponsiveness to, a child's basic emotional needs.

Possible signs of neglect:

39. Responsible staff should be especially concerned about a child who:

- is constantly hungry, greedy or stealing food.
- has lingering illnesses which have not been treated.
- is continually smelly, scruffy and dirty.
- is often dressed in inadequate or unsuitable clothing for the weather conditions.
- suffers repeated accidents, suggesting a lack of proper supervision.
- is constantly tired.
- does not respond when given attention or, on the other hand, craves attention and affection from any adult.

Child sexual exploitation

40. Child sexual exploitation (CSE) involves exploitative situations, contexts and relationships where young people receive something (for example food, accommodation, drugs, alcohol, gifts, money or in some cases simply affection) as a result of engaging in sexual activities. Sexual exploitation can take many forms ranging from the seemingly 'consensual' relationship where sex is exchanged for affection or gifts, to serious organised crime by gangs and groups. What marks out exploitation is

an imbalance of power in the relationship. The perpetrator always holds some kind of power over the victim which increases as the exploitative relationship develops. Sexual exploitation involves varying degrees of coercion, intimidation or enticement, including unwanted pressure from peers to have sex, sexual bullying including cyberbullying and grooming. However, it is also important to recognise that some young people who are being sexually exploited do not exhibit any external signs of this abuse.

Domestic Abuse

41. Domestic Abuse, also known as domestic violence or DV, is a pattern of threatening behaviour, coercive behaviour, control, violence or abuse by one person against another in a home or family setting. It can happen to anyone - regardless of gender, age or culture - and can exist in any relationship - with partners, ex-partners or relatives. It is never acceptable

Domestic abuse can take many forms and includes, but is not limited to:

- Physical - Assault, punching, kicking, hitting, forced imprisonment, biting, strangling, burning, dragging, using weapons, throwing objects
Sexual - Rape, sexual assault, forced prostitution, degradation, using objects, forced to watch or act in pornography
- Psychological - Verbal or emotional abuse, threats to kill, blaming, mind games, criticism, accusations, jealousy and obsessive behaviours, manipulation, sleep deprivation
- Financial - Preventing a person from getting or keeping a job, taking money, not permitting access to or withholding family income
- Isolation - Not being allowed to see others, to see who you want, denied any form of contact with family or friends and any other support networks

42. Controlling behaviour is a range of acts designed to make a person subordinate and/or dependent by isolating them from sources of support, exploiting their resources and capacities for personal gain, depriving them of the means needed for independence, resistance and escape and regulating their everyday behaviour.

43. Coercive behaviour is an act or a pattern of acts of assault, threats, humiliation and intimidation or other abuse that is used to harm, punish, or frighten their victim.

44. Children who witness domestic abuse are being emotionally abused. In the majority of reported domestic abuse incidents, children have either been present in the same or a nearby room. Children who witness, intervene or hear incidents are affected in many ways, even after a short time.

Short-term effects:

- Anxiety or depression
- Feeling frightened
- Becoming withdrawn
- Bed wetting
- Running away
- Aggressiveness or behavioural difficulties
- Problems with school, poor concentration
- Difficulty sleeping, emotional turmoil
- Eating disorders or alcohol or drug misuse

Long-term effects

- Lack of respect for the parent
- Loss of self confidence
- An inability to trust and form relationships
- Becoming over protective or feeling responsible for the parent
- Feeling a 'loss of childhood'
- Problems at school, low education attainment
- Running away

Female Genital Mutilation

45. Professionals in all agencies, need to be alert to the possibility of a girl being at risk of FGM, or already having suffered FGM. There is a range of potential indicators that a child or young person may be at risk of FGM, which individually may not indicate risk but if there are two or more indicators present this could signal a risk to the child or young person. Victims of FGM are likely to come from a community that is known to practise FGM. Professionals should note that girls at risk of FGM may not yet be aware of the practice or that it may be conducted on them, so sensitivity should always be shown when approaching the subject. Warning signs that FGM may be about to take place, or may have already taken place, can be found on pages 11-12 of the Multi-Agency Practice Guidelines referred to above.
46. Section 5B of the Female Genital Mutilation Act 2003 (as inserted by section 74 of the Serious Crime Act 2015) places a statutory duty upon teachers¹¹, along with social workers and healthcare professionals, to report to the police where they discover (either through disclosure by the victim or visual evidence) that FGM appears to have been carried out on a girl under 18. Those failing to report such cases will face disciplinary sanctions. It will be rare for teachers to see visual evidence, and they should not be examining pupils, but the same definition of what is meant by “to discover that an act of FGM appears to have been carried out” is used for all professionals to whom this mandatory reporting duty applies. Staff should also activate local safeguarding

procedures, using existing national and local protocols for multi-agency liaison with police and children's social care.

Looked after Children

47. Governing bodies must appoint a designated teacher to promote the educational achievement of children who are looked after and to ensure that this person has appropriate training.
48. The most common reason for children becoming looked after is as a result of abuse and/or neglect. Governing bodies and proprietors should ensure that staff have the skills, knowledge and understanding necessary to keeping looked after children safe. In particular, they should ensure that appropriate staff have the information they need in relation to a child's looked after legal status (whether they are looked after under voluntary arrangements with consent of parents or on an interim or full care order) and contact arrangements with birth parents or those with parental responsibility. They should also have information about the child's care arrangements and the levels of authority delegated to the carer by the authority looking after him/her. The designated safeguarding lead, through the designated teacher for looked after children, should have details of the child's social worker and the name of the virtual school head.

Preventing Radicalisation

49. The school has a separate prevent policy

Staff and volunteer responsibility

50. Staff and volunteers should understand that they are not making a diagnosis, only receiving concerns. None of the signs listed above may actually prove that a child is being abused and these indications should not be taken as proof. They may be indicators, which when put into context, provide justification for action. Emotional abuse is more than just the occasional criticism of a child. Abuse is a symptom of continued negative treatment, which ostracises or belittles a child. This is usually the result of extremes of inappropriate care by the parents and so very difficult to confront.
51. ALL abuse is emotional abuse irrespective of whether or not it is accompanied by physical injury, sexual abuse or neglect.

Procedures

52. A member of staff suspecting or hearing a complaint of abuse:

- Must listen carefully to the child and keep an open mind. Staff should not take a decision as to whether or not the abuse has taken place.
- Must not ask leading questions, that is, a question which suggests its own answer (“was it your Father?” or “did this take place on Tuesday when you were away?”)
- Must reassure the child but not give a guarantee of absolute confidentiality. The member of staff should explain that they need to pass the information to the Designated Safeguarding Lead, who will ensure that the correct action is taken.
- Must keep a written record of the conversation (see instructions below – paragraph 36). The record should include the date, time and place of the conversation and the essence of what was said and done by whom and in whose presence. The record should be signed by the person making it and should use names, not initials. The record must be kept securely and handed to the Designated Safeguarding Lead.

Preserving evidence

53. All evidence (for example scribbled notes, mobile phones containing text messages, clothing, and computers) must be safeguarded and preserved.

Recording

54. It is essential to create a full, contemporaneous report of the meeting using the BLUE child protection incident form. This should try to include:

- a) Description of observable behaviour e.g. was shaking, continued to cry, constantly moved around the room (Do not interpret these features).
- b) A record the actual words spoken by the child wherever possible.

Reporting

55. All suspicion or complaints of abuse must be reported to the Designated Safeguarding Lead, or if the complaint involves the Designated Safeguarding Lead, to the Deputy Designated Safeguarding Lead.

56. All staff may also raise concerns with children’s social care if they believe there is a risk of immediate serious harm to the child. If the child’s situation does not appear to be improving, the staff member with concerns should press for reconsideration.

Action by the Designated Safeguarding Lead

57. The action to be taken will:

1. conform to the All London Child Protection Procedures.
2. ensure that the school will not investigate concerns but refer them to the Local Authority Designated Safeguarding Lead (LADO), Children’s Services or Police; respect

the wishes of the complainant's parents, provided they have no interest which is in conflict with the pupil's best interests and that they are properly informed. Again, it may be necessary, after all appropriate consultation, to override parental wishes in some circumstances. If the Designated Safeguarding Lead is concerned that disclosing information to parents would put a child at risk, he or she will take further advice from the relevant professionals before making a decision to disclose.

3. respect duties of confidentiality, so far as applicable.

4. ensure that a child's interests are paramount.

5. ensure that, if there is room for doubt as to whether a referral to Children's services should be made, the Designated Safeguarding Lead will consult with the Child Protection Lead for Education, or in the case of an allegation against a professional, the LADO, or other appropriate professionals on a no names basis without identifying the pupil. However, as soon as sufficient concern exists that a child may be at risk of significant harm, a referral will be made as soon as possible, within a maximum of 24 hours. If the initial referral is made by telephone, the Designated Safeguarding Lead will confirm the referral in writing to Children's Services within 24 hours using the Common Assessment Framework (CAF). If no response or acknowledgment is received within three working days, the Designated Safeguarding Lead will contact Social Services again. The Designated Safeguarding Lead will agree with the recipient of the referral what the child and parents will be told, by whom and when.

Referral guidelines

58. Our policy is to refer all matters of concern to the appropriate agency. If it is a matter of child protection it will be referred to Children's Services. If the concern relates to an allegation against a member of staff it will be referred to the Local Authority Designated Safeguarding Lead (LADO).

Low Level Monitoring

59. Any indication of a potential child protection issue must be discussed with the Designated Safeguarding Lead. If the Designated Safeguarding Lead has concerns he or she will contact either the Child Protection Lead for Education, duty social worker at the Referral and Assessment Team or the LADO as appropriate to seek clarification on what action should be taken.

Allegations against staff members, volunteers or Governors

60. The School follows procedures for dealing with allegations against staff (and volunteers who work with children) that aim to strike a balance between the need to protect children from abuse and the need to protect staff and volunteers from malicious or unfounded allegations. These procedures follow the guidance in *Dealing with Allegations of Abuse against Teachers and Other Staff* and also from the All London Child Protection Procedures. See also 11(g) above. Full consideration will be given to all the options, subject to the need to ensure the safety and welfare of the pupils or pupil concerned.
61. Where an allegation or complaint is made against the Deputy Designated Safeguarding Lead, the matter will be reported immediately to the Headteacher. Where an allegation or complaint is made against the Headteacher, the person receiving the allegation should immediately inform the Chair of Governors, or in his or her absence the Vice Chair, without first notifying the Headteacher.
62. Appendix 1 of this policy gives guidance to staff on how to reduce the likelihood that their behaviour and actions might place pupils or themselves at risk of harm or of allegations of harm to a pupil. They should also have a copy and have read the document 'Safer Working Practices for adults who work with children and young people (2009)'.
63. If the School ceases to use the services of a member of staff (or a governor or volunteer) because that person has engaged in conduct that harmed (or is likely to harm) a child, or if they otherwise pose a risk of harm to a child, a compromise agreement will not be used and there will be a prompt and detailed report to the Independent Safeguarding Authority. Any such incidents will be followed by a review of the safeguarding procedures within the School, with a report being presented to the Governors without delay.
64. If an allegation against a member of staff is found to have been malicious it will be removed from personnel records. Then on a case by case basis if an allegation is not substantiated, is unfounded or malicious, the decision will be made as to whether it will be referred to in any employment reference.

Allegations against pupils

65. A pupil against whom an allegation of abuse has been made may be temporarily excluded from the School and the School's policy on behaviour, discipline and sanctions will apply. The School will take advice from Children's Services or the Local Authority Designated Safeguarding Lead (LADO) as appropriate on such allegations and will take all appropriate action to ensure the safety and welfare of all pupils involved, including the pupil or pupils accused of abuse. If it is necessary for a pupil to be interviewed by the police in relation to allegations of abuse, the School will ensure that, subject to the advice of Children's Services or the LADO, parents are informed as soon as possible and that the pupil is supported during the interview by an appropriate adult. In the case

of pupils whose parents are abroad, the pupil's Guardian will be requested to provide support to the pupil and to accommodate him/her if it is necessary to temporarily excluded him/her.

66. If a pupil is temporarily excluded from school as a result of an allegation of abuse, the Chair of Governors and at least one Designated Governor will be informed as soon as practicable.

Harm from outside the school

67. A member of staff who suspects that a pupil is suffering harm from outside the School should refer the matter to the Designated Safeguarding Lead.

Supporting pupils at risk

68. St Catherine School recognises that children who are abused or who witness violence may find it difficult to develop a sense of self-worth or view the world as a positive place. This school may be the only stable, secure and predictable element in the lives of children at risk. Nevertheless, whilst at school their behaviour may still be challenging and defiant or they may be withdrawn.

This school will 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 the school's behaviour management policies.
- a consistent approach agreed by all staff which will endeavour to ensure the pupil knows that some behaviour is unacceptable but s/he is valued.
- regular liaison with other professionals and agencies that support the pupils and their families.
- a commitment to develop productive, supportive relationships with parents, whenever it is in the child's best interest to do so.
- the development and support of a responsive and knowledgeable staff group, trained to respond appropriately in child protection situations.
- recognition that statistically children with behavioural difficulties and disabilities are most vulnerable to abuse so staff who work in any capacity with children with profound and multiple disabilities, sensory impairment and/or emotional and behavioural problems will need to be particularly sensitive to signs of abuse.

- Recognition that in a home environment where there is domestic abuse, drug or alcohol abuse, and any other difficulties experienced by families, children may also be vulnerable and in need of support and/or protection.

69. This policy should be considered alongside other related policies in school. These are the policies for the teaching of PSHE, the wellbeing and behaviour policy, the physical intervention policy, the anti-bullying policy and the health and safety policy.

Monitoring

70. The Designated Safeguarding Lead will monitor the operation of this policy and its procedures and make an annual report to the Board of Governors. This is actually presented three times a year.

71. The Board of Governors will undertake an annual review of this policy and how the related duties under it have been discharged. The Governors will ensure that any deficiencies or weaknesses in regard to child protection arrangements are remedied without delay.

72. A single record will be implemented giving a full history of child protection matters at the School which will be available to successive Head teachers and Chairs of Governing Bodies. This record will help the School in upholding the highest standards of safeguarding.

Former pupils

73. The Board of Governors will ensure that the desire to exonerate the School will not be allowed to take precedence over concerns for the current physical and emotional health of former pupils.

Use of the school premises by other organisations

74. Where services or activities are provided separately by another body, using the school premises, the Governing Body will seek assurance that the body concerned has appropriate policies and procedures in place in regard to safeguarding children and child protection.

Date ratified by Governors: 14/02/2017

Signed: Martin Arnell