

# **HIGHCLARE SCHOOL**

## **CHILD PROTECTION POLICY & PROCEDURES**

### **POLICY**

#### **1. INTRODUCTION**

- (a) The 'Every Child Matters' agenda is a vital part of Highclare's Child Protection policy and procedures. Children's safety, happiness and health is at the core of the school's philosophy. Although the prime focus of the school is to secure the best educational provision for each child, we are committed to the highest standards in protecting and safeguarding the children entrusted to our care at all times. The same principles apply to all policies which protect and safeguard children, e.g. anti-bullying and first aid.
- (b) We recognise that some children may be the victims of neglect, physical, sexual or emotional abuse. Staff of the school will often, by virtue of their day to day contact and knowledge of the children, be well placed to identify such abuse and offer support to children in need.
- (c) We will ensure that arrangements are in place for:
  - all reasonable measures to be taken to minimise the risks of harm to children's welfare
  - all appropriate actions to be taken to address concerns about the welfare of a child, or children, working to agreed local policies and procedures in full partnership with other local agencies. Highclare follows the procedures of Birmingham Safeguarding Children Board (BSCB)
  - all persons working at this school to be made aware of this policy

#### **2. AIMS**

In order to protect our children, we aim to:

- (a) Create an atmosphere where all our children can feel secure, valued and listened to
- (b) Recognise signs and symptoms of abuse
- (c) Respond quickly and effectively to cases of suspected abuse
- (d) Monitor and support children at risk
- (e) Use the curriculum to raise children's awareness, build confidence and skills
- (f) Work closely with parent\carers and support external agencies
- (g) Ensure that all adults within our school who have access to children have been CRB checked in accordance with the legislation
- (h) Promote child support services through PSHE and display contact information e.g. Childline

#### **3. DESIGNATED PERSONNEL**

- (a) Headmistress and Designated Senior Person for Child Protection - Mrs M Viles
- (b) Chair of Governing Body - Mrs L Flowith
- (c) Nominated Governor - Mrs S Watson
- (d) Deputy DSP for Child Protection - Mrs A Moore

#### **4. PARENTS AND CARERS**

- (a) Parents and carers will be made aware of the school policy through published information. Parents and carers will be informed that in certain circumstances there may be a need to contact other agencies without first notifying them. This decision will be made in partnership between Education Services and Social Care Services. It will be made clear that this is a legal obligation and not a personal decision.
- (b) A copy of the school procedure is available to all parents, carers and children upon request.

#### **5. VISITORS AND VOLUNTEERS**

A summary of the school's procedures (on next page) and the name of the DSP should be displayed for the information of visitors to the school on all sites.

#### **6. REVIEW**

This policy will be reviewed annually by the Head Teacher and SLT

#### **7. This policy was adopted by the Governing Body of Highclare School.**

**If you wish to see the complete policy and procedure, this is available in the school office.**