

HIGHCLARE SCHOOL

CHILD PROTECTION POLICY (SAFEGUARDING)

POLICY

1. INTRODUCTION

- (a) Highclare School recognises its legal duty to work with other agencies in protecting children from harm and responding to abuse in accordance with *Every Child Matters 2003*, *DCFS Circular 0027/2004* and *Safeguarding Children and Safer Recruitment in Education (2007)*. CRB checks / Vetting and Barring procedures are followed for the appointment of **all** staff, who also undergo training every three years; every two years for the Designated Persons. Parents can feel confident that procedures are in place to ensure that all teaching and support staff and voluntary helpers appointed are suitable to work with children.
- (b) 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.
- (c) 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.
- (d) 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) for Child Protection and the framework for Assessment of Children in Need (CAF)
 - all persons working at this school to be made aware of this policy
- (e) **Early Years Provision** -Within the EYFS Settings there are Designated Persons (see below). The Designated Person would inform Ofsted of any serious allegations of harm or abuse, by any person living, working or looking after children at the premises (whether that allegation relates to harm or abuse committed on the premises or elsewhere), or any other abuse which is alleged to have taken place on the premises, and of the action taken in respect of these allegations. The school would inform Ofsted of the above as soon as is reasonably practicable, but at the latest, within fourteen days.

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) Deputy DSP for Child Protection - Mrs A Moore
- (c) EYFS Designated Person (St Paul's) – Mrs J Harris
- (d) EYFS Designated Person (Woodfield) – Mrs S Pointon
- (e) Chair of Governing Body - Mrs L Flowith
- (f) Nominated Governor - Mrs S Watson

4. STAFF

Staff adopt an open and accepting attitude towards pupils as part of their responsibility for pastoral care. Child protection (Safeguarding) issues may be addressed through the curriculum as appropriate, especially in personal, social and health education and tutorial time. They hope that parents and pupils feel free to talk about any concerns and see school as a safe place if there are any difficulties at home. Pupils' worries and fears will be taken seriously if they seek help from a member of staff. However, staff cannot guarantee confidentiality if concerns are such that referral must be made to the appropriate agencies in order to safeguard the child's welfare.

Staff who observe injuries which appear to be non-accidental or significant change in a pupils' behaviour, or who are told anything significant related to child protection by a pupil must report their concerns immediately to the Designated Person. A factual written record will be made. If abuse or neglect, they are required to discuss them with the Designated Person. School staff do not carry out investigations themselves, nor decide whether children have been abused. Concerns must be referred to the Designated Person, who will liaise with the specialist agencies. Accurate records relating to child protection are kept secure.

5. 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.

6. VISITORS AND VOLUNTEERS

A summary of Child Protection Information for Visitors and Volunteers and the name of the DSP should be displayed for the information of visitors to the school on all sites.

7. REVIEW

This policy will be reviewed annually by the Headmistress and SLT

Written by:	Adopted by the Board:	Review Date:
MV/September 2009		July 2010