

Fosse Bank School

Child protection policy

The Governors, Head and staff recognise their statutory (Children's Act 1989 + 2004, and the guidance provided by the Framework for the Assessment of Children in Need and their Families, Working Together to Safeguard Children, What to do if you are Worried a Child is Being Abused) and Safeguarding Children and Safer Recruitment in Education (2007), and their pastoral responsibility to pupils and the pupils' fundamental right to be protected from harm.

The Governor responsible for Child Protection is Mrs Jackie Richards. The Child Protection Officer is Gillian Lovatt-Young.

Aims

We endeavour to provide an ethos where care and consideration of others is of paramount importance. We try to make every child feel safe, secure, respected and valued and encourage children to talk openly and to ensure that they are listened to.

We endeavour to instil confidence in the child to confide in a trusted adult if unhappy or feeling threatened for any reason.

We aim to support children, parents and each other (staff) in situations relating to child protection. The child's welfare is of paramount consideration.

Action

Through everyday interaction between teacher and child the pupils are encouraged to understand the importance of safety and helping to protect themselves and others,

The discipline of the school is underlined with rules that first and foremost consider the safety of children and these are made explicit to the children in assemblies.

In PSHCE and 'talks' with the Head and class teachers pupils are given opportunities to discuss and voice their feelings about issues regarding safety and protecting themselves, to understand that it is right to say 'NO' in certain situations and to develop the skills they need to recognise and stay safe from abuse.

Parents and guardians collect and bring children to school. We ask parents to inform us if someone else is collecting their child from school. All children are collected at exits inside the school site.

The doors are always kept locked and any parent or visitor arriving after 8.50am has to ring the bell at the main entrance and report to the secretary.

Safe recruitment practices are always followed. Safeguarding Children and Safer Recruitment in Education (2007)

Monitoring

We understand that teachers and staff are well placed to observe outward signs of abuse. (See Appendix 1 for Signs and Symptoms)

Categories for concern are:

Neglect - The persistent or severe neglect of a child which results in serious impairment of the child's health or development.

Physical Abuse - Physical injury to a child - reasonable suspicion that the injury was inflicted or

knowingly not prevented.

Sexual Abuse - The involvement in sexual activities to which the child was unable to give informed consent.

Emotional Abuse - Persistent or severe emotional ill treatment or rejection.

Grave Concern - Children whose situations do not currently fit the above categories but for whom there is significant risk of abuse.

Staff are therefore vigilant in recognising signs and symptoms of abuse and report concerns to the Head.

If a particular concern is identified, observations are recorded in a confidential 'Child Protection' book and kept securely. The teacher may seek information from the child with tact and sympathy. No leading questions should be used. If the teacher prefers he/she may ask the Head to speak with the child. If the child confides in a teacher it is important that the teacher assures the child that only those who need to know will be told. It is then their responsibility to share the information with the Child Protection Officer. The Child Protection Officer may then seek confidential, anonymous advice from the SMT, NSPCC or from a medical professional or Social Services before proceeding to the referral stage. If appropriate, the Child Protection Officer may express their concerns to the child's parents and involve them at this point

Referrals to Social Services Department

The Child Protection officer will investigate so far as is possible and involve the relevant agencies (parents, foster-parents, social services, police etc.). Dependant upon the investigation, the Headteacher shall ensure that a case conference is arranged involving the above agencies. In the case of a referral the degree of confidentiality is governed by the need to protect the child.

If the Head is not certain whether to make a referral, immediate advice will be sought by the local Child Protection Officer and a 'consultation' requested whereby the child can remain anonymous.

The outcome will depend upon the individual case but it could result in the child's name being entered onto the child protection register.

Every attempt will be made to offer support for the child whilst at school and it is hoped that the school will provide an environment in within which he/she can relax and spend the school day in complete confidence and safety.

Staff have a statutory responsibility under the KCPC Children in Need/Child Protection Procedures to report all allegations of child abuse and to alert others where appropriate if they suspect that child abuse may have occurred. If the allegation is against a member of staff, immediate consultation is required with the Kent Area Children's Officer. The procedure then followed by the reporting member of staff is drawn from the KCC Child Protection Procedures for managing allegations against staff and in the **Fosse Bank Allegations Against Staff Policy**.

The procedure followed by staff and the designated teacher is drawn from "working together to safeguard children" (2006) and KCC's policy on child protection (Kent Child Protection Committee).

Monitoring and Review

It is the responsibility of the Governors to agree and then monitor the school Child Protection policy in the light of any new information and guidance from the DfCFS or Social Services Department.

Signed..... Chair of Governors

Date.....

Important phone numbers:

Area Child Protection Officer: Helen Windiate, 01732 525035 / 07740 183798

Head of Kent Children's Safeguard Service: Kel Arthur, 01622 696366 / 07786 191359

Children's Officers: Care Standards - Sue Urwin 01622 696366 / 07717 716861

Early Years - Claire Ray 01622 696366 / 07920 108828

Training and Development - Mike O'Connell 01622 696366 / 07740 183807

Kent Education Department – Leaflets and Training 01622 696366

www.teachernet.gov.uk/management/childprotection/