



## CHILD PROTECTION INFORMATION FOR PARENTS/CARERS

### 1. DUTIES

As a school all staff have a duty to safeguard and promote the welfare of children in school. In safeguarding children's welfare, part of our duty is to protect children from harm.

### 2. EVERY CHILD MATTERS

It is our belief that every child matters and we will do our best to help pupils achieve the five outcomes set by the government and in so doing improve their life chances

1. be healthy
2. stay safe
3. enjoy and achieve
4. make a positive contribution
5. achieve economic well-being.

To do this, we will work with other services in close partnership as provided for in the Children's Act 2004.

### 3. PROTECTING CHILDREN FROM HARM

All members of staff, including bus escorts, have a common law duty of care towards pupils and must alert the Child Protection Co-ordinator if there is suspicion of harm. We are accountable for what we do and must always act in the child's best interest; we must protect pupils from avoidable harm.

### 4. CHILD PROTECTION CO-ORDINATOR

We have trained child protection co-ordinators in school whose job is to deal with any concerns that staff might have. They have the expertise and knowledge of procedures to deal with any issues related to protecting children. They work closely with the school health service and any other agencies as necessary. The head teacher and the school's Governing Body are responsible for making sure procedures are in place.

## 5. RECOGNISING HARM

The harm or possible harm of a child may come to the attention of staff in a variety of ways. It may be

- a. As a result of information given by the child, his or her friends, a family member or close associate. When a child makes a disclosure, staff will
  - listen to what the child has to say with an open mind;
  - not ask probing or leading questions;
  - never stop a child who is freely recalling significant events;
  - record what was said;
  - not promise the child to keep secrets;
  - record all following actions and events
- b. It might be based on the child's behaviour, which might
  - be very different from usual;
  - be very different from other pupils
  - be bizarre or unusual
  - involve the child 'acting out' a harmful situation in play
- c. It might be related to a suspicious injury in that
  - the injury does not match the explanation given and / or
  - explanation differ depending on who is giving them (for example the parent and child give different accounts);
  - the child appears anxious and evasive when asked about the injury
- d. It might be related to the child's failure to thrive over a period of time.

## 6. HOW REFERRALS ARE DEAL WITH

The Child Protection Co-ordinator (CPC) will decide what to do. The CPC might discuss the concerns with the child's family or carers, asking for information and possibly asking whether it would be helpful to the family to contact Social Services.

In some cases, for instance if the child is in immediate or increasing danger the CPC will contact Social Services or the police straight away.

All referrals will be recorded and kept secure.

NOTE: The Human Rights Act (1998) Article 8, does protect individual and family privacy, but this can be waived under some circumstances, e.g. to protect health or morals.