

# Slaithwaite CE J & I School



# Child Protection Policy

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## **Policy Statement**

The Child Protection Programme at Slaithwaite C E J & I School seeks to provide a secure, safe and happy environment for every child.

\*This school follows the Kirklees guidelines on Safeguarding in Schools Policy 2016 - held in Safeguarding File.

The school hopes to support all children in their development, in a way which will foster security, confidence and independence. Through our personal and social education we hope to integrate the key concepts of child protection and allow for continuity and progression through key stages.

All staff should have read and are aware of the Kirklees Child Protection Policy and procedures in school. They should have read and be familiar with the Quick Guide for staff/all staff have a copy.

\* These are kept in the Head Teachers office.

## **Aims and Objectives**

We aim at all times:

- To follow effective procedures for managing situations where there is suspected or disclosed abuse.
- To build in, through our PHSE programme, learning experiences and opportunities for pupils to develop self-awareness and self-esteem, assertiveness and decision making.
- We will ensure that each member of staff is fully aware of the ways in which child abuse may arise; neglect, physical injury, sexual exploitation or emotional ill treatment.
- We will ensure that each member of staff, teaching or non-teaching is aware of the main physical or behavioural indicators, especially when seen together.
- All staff should be aware of the indicators of abuse (see Appendix A).
- All staff should be aware of the issues related to dealing with disclosure (see appendix B).

## **Effective Communication and Working with other Agencies**

- At Slaithwaite C E J & I School we hope to ensure open and effective communication between teachers and other school staff, pupils, parents and other adults.
- All communication should at all times preserve confidentiality. The transfer of information between staff and between other relevant schools should always adhere to this code of confidentiality. When children transfer to another school, the Head or Child Protection Officer will pass on information relative to child protection.
- The Head Teacher will refer to new legislation and exchange information between agencies.
- The staff at Slaithwaite CE J & I School work closely with outside agencies and will always respond professionally and appropriately in cases of child protection and with any other involvement with outside agencies.

## **Procedures in the Case of Suspected or Disclosed Abuse**

Our named Child Protection Co-ordinator/Designated Safeguarding Person is Mrs E Bradley. The second DSP is Miss K. Millward. In their absence staff should consult the Chair of governors. All staff who have concerns about a child or suspicions of any nature should consult the co-ordinator.

- The co-ordinator will then follow the guidelines laid down in the Kirklees Safeguarding procedures.
- In dealing with disclosure of abuse from children or other adults we will:  
Listen carefully, reassure, get help, (also consult Appendix B).

## **Allegations against members of school staff**

The school will follow the guidelines set out in our Safeguarding in Schools Policy which gives full regard to the procedures set out in "Safeguarding Children - dealing with allegations against school staff". These are kept in the Safeguarding file in the Head teachers Office.

In the event that indicators of abuse are evident or if there is a suggestion of a disclosure of abuse, a referral will be made by the DSP/Child Protection Officer to the Emergency Social Services Team. All records will be kept by the Child Protection Officer in a locked filing cabinet.

**Policy reviewed**      **15<sup>th</sup> September 2016**  
**Review due**            **September 2017**

## Appendix A.

### **CHILD PROTECTION INDICATORS OF ABUSE**

Listed below are some indicators of abuse. These are not always signs of abuse and may have another physical or psychological explanation. In many cases abuse is to be suspected if a number of these features are seen together or if there is a sudden change in behaviour.

#### **Physical Indicators**

Multiple bruises of different ages  
Bruising which appears to be non accidental  
Small red pinprick bruises  
Fingertip or hand marks  
Bite marks  
Black eyes (especially two)  
Linear or object shaped marks  
Soft tissue bruising (stomach, cheeks, buttocks)

Burns and scalds:  
Object shaped burns  
Cigarette burns  
Scald 'tide marks' indicating forced immersion into hot water (usually seen in young children)

Sexual abuse:  
Bruising of genitals or thighs  
Pain on urination  
Venereal infections

Neglect:  
Low weight/height ratio  
Low rate of weight gain  
Dirty clothing, poor hygiene  
Inappropriate seasonal dress

#### **Behavioural Indicators**

Extreme or sudden mood changes  
any onset of uncharacteristic behaviour.  
Unusual or excessive appetite.  
Poor appetite  
Tiredness. Truancy.  
Withdrawal from usual activities or deterioration in class participation.  
Forgetfulness. Poor organization.  
Aggression, fear of adults. Suicidal or Self-destructive behaviour.

Sexual preoccupation. Overt masturbation  
Provocative behaviour  
Inappropriate touching  
Too early awareness of sexual behaviour  
Suicide threats.

Running away from home  
Fear of going home  
Arriving at school very early  
Poor peer relationships  
Persistent attention seeking  
Preoccupation with illness, vague pains  
Sudden drop in concentration

## Appendix B

# **CHILD PROTECTION DEALING WITH DISCLOSURE**

### **Listen Carefully**

- ❖ Try to avoid appearing shocked or disbelieving
- ❖ Accept what is being said; do not offer explanations or clarifications of your own
- ❖ Ask open questions 'Is there anything else?' 'Yes.'
- ❖ Do not ask leading questions such as 'what did he/she do next?'

### **Take notes**

- ❖ Jot down time, date, facts and any observations
- ❖ If possible note what the child has said
- ❖ Draw a diagram of any marks or bruises

### **Reassure**

- ❖ Say what you can do - help if you can, be available to talk again
- ❖ Offer support, say things like 'You are not to blame' and 'you are not the only person this has happened to.'
- ❖ Explain what will happen next and reassure the child that you will keep in touch with him/her and that you will be available to talk if he/she wishes

### **Do not**

- ❖ Do not make promises you cannot keep
- ❖ Do not promise confidentiality - if the child needs protection you have a duty to pass on information
- ❖ Avoid asking the child to repeat their story to another member of staff - further investigations should be left to people who are trained
- ❖ Do not criticize the alleged abuser since the child may have very confused feelings about him/her

### **Get help**

- ❖ **Firstly for the child**
- ❖ Also for yourself especially if you feel upset by the disclosure