

St. Mark's Catholic Primary

In a caring Christian Community together we love, learn, laugh and achieve.

Knowsley Directorate of Children's Services Child Protection Policy and Procedures



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Section 1 Policy Statement Child Protection

1.1

In line with Working Together to Safeguard Children 2015, the definition of Safeguarding for this policy document is as follows:

- Protecting children from maltreatment
- Preventing impairment of children's health or development
- Ensuring that children are growing up in circumstances consistent with the provision of safe and effective care undertaking that role so as to enable those children to have optimum life chances and enter adulthood successfully.

Child protection is a part of safeguarding and promoting welfare, which refers directly to activity that is undertaken to protect specific children who are suffering, or are at risk of suffering significant harm.

1.2 Definition of Abuse

Children are considered to be abused or at risk of abuse by parents when the basic needs of the child are not being met through acts of either commission or omission.

Categories of abuse are:

- Physical Abuse
- Sexual Abuse
- Emotional Abuse
- Neglect

The ability of staff to recognise the signs and symptoms of abuse will depend upon their experience and training, however all members of staff should be alert to the possible signs of abuse.

1.3 Signs and Symptoms of Abuse

- Unusual or deviant behaviour
- Bruises, lacerations or burns which are evident when children change for PE and sports activities.
- Indicators of neglect e.g. inadequate clothing, poor growth, hunger or apparently deficient nutrition.
- Indicators of emotional abuse may include excessive dependence or attention seeking.
- Substantial behavioural change including sexual precocity or withdrawn behaviour.
- A child says they have been abused
- A child with non-accidental injuries and/ or injuries to the genital area
- A third party reporting that a child is being abused
- A child who is excessively sexualised
- A child who attempts suicide/self harm
- A child who sexually abuses another person.

This Child Protection policy has been written to comply with:

- Working Together to Safeguard Children (2015)
- KSCB Safeguarding Procedures Manual (2009)
- www.knowsleysafeguardingchildren.co.uk
- Children Acts (1989) (2004)
- Education Act (2002)
- Every Child Matters (2004) www.everychildmatters.gov.uk/publications
- Framework for the Assessment of Children in Need & their Families (2000)
- What to do if you are worried a child is being abused (2006)
- Safeguarding Children and Safer Recruitment in Education (2006)
- NSF National Service Framework for Children, Young People and Maternity Services (2004)
- Knowsley Model of Children in Need

Created by williamshelen

It upholds the principle of Safeguarding and relates to other school/learning centre policies including:

- Race, Gender & Disability Equality Schemes
- E Safety Policy
- Sex Education Policy
- Behaviour Policy
- Anti-bullying Policy
- Positive Handling Policy (which may be included as part of the Behaviour Policy)
- Allegations Management Policy
- Drug Prevention Policy
- Safer Recruitment

This is not an exhaustive list.

Section 2

The Aim of the Child Protection Policy

This is a whole school document aimed at all staff, including support staff, cleaners, grounds maintenance, catering, building maintenance, governors, volunteers and contractors. External groups that use the site must also be aware of the school policy, even though they may have their own organisational policy document.

At St Mark's Catholic Primary School we aim to promote a safe environment where child safeguarding concerns can be managed in an appropriate way. We support the Safeguarding agenda and this links to other relevant school documents.

Our school is a place where children of all abilities, cultures and ethnic backgrounds have the opportunity to learn and understand what is, and is not acceptable behaviour towards them.

Section 3

Embedding Safeguarding in Schools

3.1 Promoting a Safer Culture

Child protection is just one aspect of Safeguarding for schools. These processes and procedures have been embedded as part of our safer school culture.

- Establish and maintain an open environment where children feel secure, are encouraged to talk and feel listened to.
- Ensure children know that there are adults in the school they can approach and speak to if they are worried.
- Teach children through the PSHE curriculum the skills they need to recognise and stay safe from all kinds of harm.
- Ensure pupils with SEN in mainstream and special school, who may be especially vulnerable to abuse, are supported. Particular attention should be paid to pupils with communication difficulties enabling them to express themselves to members of staff with appropriate communication skills.
- Ensure that children who have English as an additional language have access to support; and information that is clear and accessible is available in their preferred language.
- Include, in the curriculum, material which will help children develop realistic attitudes to the responsibilities of adult life, particularly with regard to child care, and parenting skills.
- Under Section 175 Audit and within the Guidance document Keeping Children Safe in Education 2015, schools have a duty to safeguard and promote the welfare of children. In order to ensure this duty is effectively carried out the school has a Safeguarding Team:

<i>Child Protection Co-ordinator</i>	<i>Mr R. Coakley</i>	<i>Headteacher</i>
<i>Deputy Child Protection Co-ordinator</i>	<i>Mrs C. Sellers</i>	<i>Learning Mentor</i>
<i>EHA Champion</i>		
<i>Senco</i>	<i>Miss R. McMurchie</i>	<i>Teacher</i>
<i>Deputy EHA Champion</i>		
<i>Chair of Governors</i>	<i>Mrs A. Farrell</i>	

The Safeguarding Team will undertake specific roles and responsibilities in order to safeguard all children and young people in the school. (See appendix 3)

3.2 Support for Pupils

3.2.1

Some staff will have a particular contribution to make in listening to children who have been through the experience of abuse. This work will not be undertaken at a time when it may impact on any legal processes through which the child may be involved.

3.2.2

We recognise that children who are abused or witness violence, including domestic abuse, may find it difficult to develop a sense of self worth and to view the world as benevolent and meaningful. They may feel helplessness, humiliation and some sense of self-blame.

3.2.3

The school may be the only stable, secure and predictable element in the lives of children at risk. Nevertheless, when at school their behaviour may be challenging and defiant or they may be withdrawn.

3.2.4

We recognise that some children actually adopt abusive behaviours and that these children must be referred to services for appropriate support and intervention.

3.2.5

St. Mark's Catholic Primary will endeavour to support each pupil through:

- Ensuring the content of the curriculum encourages self esteem and self motivation.
- Ensuring the school ethos promotes a positive, supportive and secure environment for staff and pupils, and gives pupils a sense of being valued.
- Upholding the school's behaviour policy which is aimed at supporting vulnerable pupils in the school. The school will endeavour to ensure that pupils understand that some behaviour is unacceptable, however they are valued and not to be blamed for any abuse which has occurred.
- Liaison with other agencies which support the pupil such as Children and Families Social Work Teams, Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services, the Educational Psychology Service, Behaviour Support Services and the School Attendance Service.
- Recognition that children living in a home environment where there is domestic abuse, drug or alcohol misuse are vulnerable and in need of support and protection.
- Vigilantly monitoring children's welfare, keeping records and notifying Children and Families Social Work teams as soon as there is a cause for concern in line with the Knowsley Model of Children in Need.
- Initiating and contributing to the EHA process.

3.2.6

We will:

- Wherever possible undertake appropriate discussion with parents to obtain consent to share personal information prior to involvement of another agency unless this may put the child at increased risk of abuse.
- Ensure that parents have an understanding of the responsibility placed on the school and staff for child protection by setting out its obligations in the school prospectus.
- Ensure that the parents are aware of any referral that has been made to the local area Children and Families Social Work Team. Unless to do so would put the child at increased risk of significant harm.

3.2.7.

Operation Encompass is a project jointly run between Knowsley schools and Merseyside Police. It has been designed to provide early reporting on any domestic abuse incidents that occur outside of school and might have an impact on a child in school.

Merseyside Police will liaise with Mr R. Coakley or Mrs C. Sellers to allow them to use the information that has been shared in confidence. The school will make provision for possible difficulties experienced by the children, or their families, who has been involved in or witnessed a domestic abuse incident.

Section 4

Child Protection Procedures

- 4.1**
We will follow the procedures set out in the Knowsley Safeguarding Children Board (KSCB) Safeguarding Children Procedures Manual (2009)
- 4.2**
In the event of a member of staff having a child protection concern about a child, they will immediately inform the Child Protection Coordinator and record accurately the events giving rise to the concern using the CP1 form (see appendix 2)
- 4.3**
If the Child Protection Coordinator is unavailable, the member of staff having a child protection concern should speak to the Deputy Child Protection Coordinator (Learning Mentor) or contact the named person in the Local Authority (LA) for advice. Under no circumstances should the member of staff attempt to resolve the matter themselves.
- 4.4**
Taking no action does not safeguard children. You should not assume that someone else will act.
- 4.5**
If the child protection concern relates to a member of staff please refer to the school Allegations Management Policy Document.
- 4.6**
A member of staff with a child protection concern should inform the named Child Protection Coordinator immediately.

Contact Details

Knowsley MASH/Assessment Team:	443 - 2600
Liverpool Social Care	233 - 3700

4.7 Dealing with a disclosure

Do

- Stay calm
- Listen carefully -let the child tell their story and take it seriously.
- Keep the child fully informed about what you are doing / what is happening at every stage.
- Reassure the child that they have done nothing wrong and that what's happened is not their fault
- Make a full record of what has been said, heard or seen as soon as possible.

Do Not

- Promise confidentiality. Be honest about your own position, who you will have to tell and why.
- Ask leading questions (e.g. Did your Mother do this to you?)
- Press the child for more details
- Make promises. (e.g. This will never happen again)

Once a disclosure has been made, of a concern has been shared, the Child Protection Coordinator will consider the information and will make a decision of either,

- No further action
- Targeted support
- A safeguarding referral.

The child protection coordinator may make a contact call to the Local Area Children and Families Social Work Team for further advice.

Having made a decision the child protection coordinator will contact the Local Area Children and Families Social Work Team to make a referral. Where a child is at immediate risk of harm a written referral may be made using a CP1 form (See appendix 2), or updated EHA form if there is already one in place.

In all other cases written referrals must be made using an EHA. If the Child Protection coordinator does not receive a written response from the Local Area Children and Families Social Work Team within 3 working days it is their responsibility to follow up the referral with the Team.

Within St. Mark's we have a named EHA Champion Carol Sellers and Deputy Ruth McMurchie.

4.8 Confidentiality and Information Sharing

Sharing information is essential in working together to safeguard children.

Professionals and agencies are required to share information:

- About children and their health, development and exposure to possible abuse and neglect
- About parents who may not be able to care adequately and safely for children
- About individuals who may present a risk to children

Often it is only when information from a number of sources is shared and put together, that it becomes clear that a child is at risk of, or is suffering significant harm.

Where there are concerns that a child is, or may be at risk of significant harm, the needs of that child must always come first; the priority must always be to protect the child.

4.8.1

If in any doubt about confidentiality, staff will seek advice from a senior manager or outside agency as required.

4.8.2

The Headteacher or Child Protection Coordinator will only disclose information about a pupil to other members of staff on a need to know basis. The appropriateness of sharing information should have a direct relevance on the ability of the member of staff to carry out their role.

All staff must be aware that they have a professional responsibility to share information with other agencies in order to safeguard children.

All staff must be aware that they cannot make a promise to a child that they will keep secrets.

4.9 Record Keeping

We will:

4.9.1

Keep clear detailed written records of concerns about children (noting the date, event and action taken), even where there is no need to refer the matter to Children and Families Social Work Teams immediately

4.9.2

In line with Working Together to Safeguard Children 2015 ensure all records kept clearly indicate statements of fact, opinion and first and second hand information.

4.9.3

Ensure all records are kept secure and in locked location.

4.10.4

Retention Guidelines for Schools

Basic File Description	Date Protection Issue	Statutory Provisions	Retention Period (Operational)	Action at the end of the administrative life of the record.	
Child Protection	Yes	s175 Audit, related guidance, 'Safeguarding Children in Education' March 2015	D.O.B. + 75 Years	Shred	Child Protection information must be copied and sent under separate cover to new school/collage whilst the child is still under 18 (i.e. the information does not need to be sent to a university for example) Where a child is removed from roll to be educated at home, the file should be copied to Knowsley L.A.

4.10 Transfer of Child Protection Records

It is the responsibility of the Headteacher to pass on confidential information to the Pupil's next school. This applies to all transfers including schools on the same site.

Checklist for transfer of records:

- If a child moves to a new Borough, the Headteacher should inform the child's Social Worker immediately
- Arrangements should be made for records to be transferred. (See Appendix 4)
- A copy of the records should be made before the records are transferred
- All original child protection records should be forwarded for the attention of the Headteacher of the receiving school.
- Only on confirmation of receipt of the records in the receiving school, should all previous copies be destroyed in line with confidential waste guidelines.
- In the event of not being able to trace a child, the School Attendance Improvement Officer (SAIO) should be contacted and asked to make further enquires

If a Headteacher admits a new pupil and is aware that there are child protection concerns, every effort should be made to obtain the confidential information file from the child's previous school

4.11 EHA and Liaison with Other Agencies

4.11.1 In order to effectively contribute to the Early Help Assessment (EHA) we will actively participate in and contribute to the development of a common assessment of the needs of the child/family. This will include embedding the EHA to facilitate earlier identification and intervention for children with additional needs.

4.11.2 We will work to develop effective links with other DCS services and relevant agencies, and cooperate as required with their enquires regarding child protection matters. This includes attendance and written reports at Initial Child Protection Case Conferences, core groups, strategy meetings and Child Protection Review Conferences.

4.11.3 We will notify the local area Children and Families Social Work Team if:

- It should have to exclude (whether fixed term, or permanently) a pupil who is the subject of a Child Protection Plan.
- If there is an unexplained absence of a pupil who is the subject of a Child Protection Plan of more than two days duration from school (or one day Page 11 of 16 following a weekend); or as agreed as part of any Child Protection Plan or Child in Need Plan.

Section 5

Monitoring and Review

5.1

This policy and procedure describes the Child Protection standards for our school and will be monitored annually

5.2

In the interests of promoting Safeguarding it is advised all staff receive a copy of our Safeguarding Child Protection policy and sign to say they have read and understood its content.

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APPENDIX 2

Notification of Child Protection Referral (CP1)

KNOWSLEY MBC – CP1

CONFIDENTIAL

This document must only be used when a child is at risk of immediate harm, and should be forwarded to the Local Area Children and Families Social Work Team within 48 hours of the initial referral/ disclosure.

Dear

I am writing to confirm my telephone conversation with
of Area office regarding
whose date of birth is..... and who resides at
.....
and attends school.

Details of parents or those with parental responsibility is as follows:
.....

The nature of my concern is as follows: [Including whereabouts of Child, action taken and by whom]

Signed: _____ Date: _____ Contact no; _____

[Designated CP teacher/Headteacher]

Copy to:

Vicki Clements, Safeguarding Development Officer 443 5120

[Please continue on a separate sheet if necessary]

NB: Please acknowledge receipt of this referral in writing

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Appendix 3

Roles and responsibilities of Child Protection Coordinators & Nominated Governors.

The school named Child Protection Coordinator is:

Name: Mr R Coakley (Headteacher)

The responsibilities of the Child Protection Coordinator include:

- Ensuring that effective communication and liaison with Children and Families Social Work Teams and other agencies takes place.
- Ensuring that all staff have received Knowsley Safeguarding Children Board quality assured training and have an understanding of child abuse and its main indicators.
- Ensuring that all staff are aware of the school policy, the Local Authority education guidelines and KSCB Guidance.
- Support and advice staff in their child protection work.
- Provide specialist input into the planning of the content and delivery of the Personal, Social and Health Education curriculum.
- Maintaining their own knowledge and skills in safeguarding children, and keeping a record of their continuous professional development.
- Update school procedures as necessary and review annually
- Attend Child Protection Coordinator supervision.
- Attend and contribute to strategy meetings, child protection conferences and any other child protection meetings.

The school Nominated Governor for Child Protection is:

Name:-Mrs A Farrell (Chair of Governors)

The responsibilities of the nominated governor include:

- Maintaining their own knowledge and skills in safeguarding children, and keep a record of their continuous professional development.
- Liaising with the Headteacher/Child Protection Coordinator over matters regarding child protection.
- Ensuring Child Protection policies and procedures are in place.
- To attend strategy meetings when appropriate.
- Ensuring that an annual item is placed on the governors' agenda, which reports on: Changes to Child Protection policy and procedures. The annual review of the school's Child Protection policy. Training undertaken by the Child Protection Coordinator and other school staff.

The number of child protection incidents/cases reported in such a way that no identifying information is provided.

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The place of child protection education in the school curriculum

IMPORTANT:

The receiving school must return this section to the issuing school

Name of receiving school:

Issuing school:

Child's Name:

DOB:

School Name:

School Address:

I confirm receipt of the child protection files on the above named pupil:

Name: Job title:

Signature: _____

Date: _____

