

Safeguarding Children Policy

This is a whole school policy and also refers to the Early Years' Foundation Stage (EYFS)

Commitment

At Hulme Hall Grammar School we are committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of all children and young people, in line with the duty placed on us by section 175 of the Education Act 2002.

We strongly believe that all children and young people have the right to feel safe and to be protected from physical, sexual or emotional abuse and neglect.

Scope of our commitment

At our school safeguarding encompasses child protection, safer recruitment, managing allegations against member of staff as well our approach to the Child In Need process. It is also supported by our approach to behaviour management, our response to managing bullying, our care and control policies, our response to young people who are absent from school and our health and safety policy. These are documented in separate policies, which refer to our approach when dealing with negative impact of technology upon children's well being where this is relevant.

Throughout our work we have a clear commitment to supporting families. We aim to work well in partnership with parents/carers and any other appropriate agencies to promote the welfare of our young people.

Child Protection

Key staff

In our school the designated officers for child protection are Carol Sim (Senior School), Lynne Ormiston (Junior School), Alison Shorey (EYFS).

In their absence the role is fulfilled by P Marland.

Both these post-holders have the status and authority within our management structure to carry out the duties of the role.

Our named Governor for child protection is Peter Robinson

All our staff are reminded annually who these key post-holders are. This is supported by a poster in school (Appendix 1)

Child Protection Procedures

At our school we follow the policies and procedures generated by Stockport's Local Safeguarding Children Board.

1. When staff receive a disclosure or notice something which leads them to suspect that abuse may have taken place the information is recorded on our 'Note Of Concern' (Appendix 2). If physical abuse is suspected a 'skin map' will be used to record the site and extent of any injury that has been noticed (Appendix 3). These are both passed in a sealed envelope to the designated officer as soon as possible. This record should include:
 - The date and time of the observation/disclosure
 - Full information including verbatim accounts when possible of the incident
 - Comments about the child's appearance, behaviour, emotional state and actions

When staff are receiving a disclosure from children they should follow the guidance issued by the LSCB.

When technology is involved we retain all the evidence (e.g. screen shots/emails/text messages) and use it to support the 'note of concern'. However we do not search mobile phones or computers to gain further information.

2. Upon receiving the 'note of concern' the designated officer follows the procedures endorsed by Stockport's Local Children Safeguarding Board. Action should be taken within the same working day and as early as possible.
3. Where abuse is suspected a referral will be made to Social Care by the Designated Officer. A verbal referral will be supported by the completion of the Common Assessment Framework in line with local procedures (Appendix 6)

The content of the referral will be discussed with parents/carers where this is appropriate. Advice may be sought from Social Care concerning this aspect of information sharing. It is recognised that parents/carers are unlikely to be told that a referral is being made if sexual abuse or fabricated illness are suspected. Staff are aware that they must not discuss any issues with parents/carers unless they are told to do so by the designated officer.

NO ATTEMPT SHOULD BE MADE BY OUR STAFF TO CONDUCT AN INVESTIGATION INTO CASES OF SUSPECTED ABUSE.

Social Care and the police are responsible for undertaking investigations. Inappropriate actions by others may negate or contaminate evidence.

At our school it is expected that staff will co-operate with those investigating abuse following a referral. It will be the responsibility of those investigating the case to ensure that parents/carers are fully informed about the investigation. This is not the responsibility of our school.

Throughout this process the designated officer can seek advice from

- Social Care (08456 44 313) – you may need to speak to the Senior Practitioner
- The Senior Advisor for Safeguarding in Education (474 5974)
- The Safeguarding Unit (474 5657)

Training and Support

- All members of staff are trained in child protection issues as part of their induction process
- All staff have access to Level 1 Basic Awareness training every 3 years. This is provided by Stockport's LSCB
- The Designated Officers in school has access to specific training every 2 years which is provided by Stockport's LSCB
- Support material and the LSCB policies and procedures are available on the Stockport's LSCB website (www.safeguardingchildreninstockport.org.uk)
- These materials are also available on the Stockport School, College and Community workforce website (www.scwd.stockport.gov.uk)
- The procedures relating to child protection are discussed with all staff annually
- A record of staff training is kept within school, which identifies who has attended the training and the content of the session
- A set of the most recent training materials are available for staff in school
- Our Nominated Governor receives termly updates about safeguarding through the Local Authority Governance Support Unit
- Training is also provided by the LSCB to support the governors in their role

Information for Parents/Carers

It is made very clear to all parents/carers that all our staff is legally obliged to follow up any concerns they may have around child protection. A statement to this effect is included in the school prospectus, is on our website and is in our home-school agreement (Appendix 7). We also display our commitment to safeguarding in our entrance hall (Appendix 8).

Confidentiality/Records

All child protection records are kept separately from other records in school and are stored in a locked cabinet. The Designated Officer has access to these. When necessary they may be shared with other relevant members of staff. However they must always be read in school and then placed immediately back in the locked cabinet.

When a young person leaves our school, their child protection records are sent to the receiving school separately from their other school records. Records are not sent unless it has been confirmed that the young person has taken up their new place. If this confirmation is not received we retain the file indefinitely. We would inform the Education Welfare Service, via a password protected e-mail, that the young person is no longer at our school, just as we would for all young people who either suggest they are moving or who are missing from school with no explanation for 5 days. This is in accordance with the 'Children Missing From Home and Education' Policy (LSCB, 2009).

Children In Need

The staff in our school is committed to multi-agency working to support a Child In Need.

Where it is deemed that young people require additional support, staff at our school will

- Discuss their concerns with parents/carers
- Complete or update a Common Assessment Framework
- Convene or take part in the Child in Need Process
- Call an Engagement Meeting if parents/carers are unwilling to engage with the process

- Monitor the young person's progress and raise the issue to the level of Child Protection if this is necessary

All our work at Child in Need is conducted with the support and full knowledge of our parents/carers. Where it is appropriate we also involve the young person in discussions.

All the documents to support the Child In Need process are listed on the page entitled 'Common Processes' on the SMBC website.

(www.stockport.gov.uk/commonprocesses)

Training and support

Members of staff who are likely to complete the Common Assessment Framework and/or take on the role of Lead Practitioner are encouraged to take part in 2 days training that is provided by the LSCB multi-agency training pool. This training includes 3 courses which cover using CAF effectively, the role of the Lead Practitioner and effective use of Child In Need meetings.

The training can be booked through www.scwd.stockport.gov.uk

Materials to support the Child In Need process are located on the Common Processes page within the SMBC website (www.stockport.gov.uk/commonprocesses)

Safer Recruitment

At our school we are committed to the safer recruitment practices outlined in Safeguarding Children and Safer Recruitment in Education (2007)

We ensure that all appointments in our school are made by a panel which comprises of at least one person who has completed the NCSL training package. The school holds a copy of the certificates of everyone who has been trained within their organisation.

Our safer recruitment practices include:

1. Ensuring that all our adverts include a statement which explains our commitment to safeguarding children
2. Displaying our commitment to safeguarding both visually in school and on our website
3. Ensuring that all our posts are detailed accurately through specific job descriptions and person specifications which state the contact that the post-holder will have with children
4. Discarding any applications that are made by any applicant who submit a CV instead of the required application form
5. Requesting references prior to interview, using a detailed reference request form
6. Scrutinising the application form and references, to identify any gaps in employment, or inconsistencies in the information presented. We use this information to formulate candidate specific questions that will be used during the interview.
7. Checking the validity of qualifications
8. Checking the identity of the individual concerned
9. Checking the eligibility of the candidate to work in the UK.
10. Asking specific questions during the interview that relate to safeguarding children. We expect candidates to discuss individual experiences rather than talking hypothetically
11. Collecting the information for a CRB check
12. Discussing any self-declared information with the candidate in a non-prejudicial way during the interview

13. Reserving the right to call candidates back for further questioning if anything emerges either through the CRB process or late references.
14. Reserving the right to dismiss a candidate if false information has been submitted during the recruitment process or if information comes to light that the candidate failed to disclose

In addition we:

- a) maintain our single central record for our own employees, volunteers and Governors.
- b) have additional statements attached to the 'single central record' which explain our approach to working with other groups of people who may come onto our premises (Appendix 9 for an example)
- c) have a clear process of risk assessing any individuals who come onto our premises who do not require a CRB check.
- d) ensure that all visitors to our school are met at Reception and are given a visitors pass/badge. There may be some cases where this does not happen (eg: refuse collection) but these exceptions are listed in the arrangements stated above see (b)
- e) ensure that where appropriate (LA officers/contractors) visitors are asked to show their formal identity badges to link them to a known organisation. They are only admitted to complete known and verifiable duties.
- f) Our Governing Body reviews our Service Level Agreements annually to check the adequacy of the arrangements contractors put in place to ensure that their staff are 'suitable' for working in school.

Training and support

- Our Headteacher and the Governing Body access safer recruitment courses provided by the Senior Advisor for Safeguarding in Education or by NCSL
- They also keep themselves abreast of developments via the LA training/briefing sessions and supporting documentation. This is provided by the Senior Advisor for Safeguarding in Education in conjunction with HR within SMBC.

Managing allegations against members of staff

All the staff in our school are aware that they have a duty to report any concerns they have about the conduct of another member of staff, volunteer or governor to the Headteacher. If the concerns are about the Headteacher they are aware that they report the matter to the Chair of Governors.

When an allegation has been made against a member of staff the Headteacher will consider whether the allegation suggests that the individual has:

- Behaved in a way that has harmed, or may have harmed a young person
- Possibly committed a criminal offence against or related to a young person
- Behaved in a way that indicates that s/he is unsuitable to work with young people

If any of the above may have happened the Headteacher must record the concerns, and contact the Local Area Designated Office (LADO: 474 5657) to ask for advice about how to proceed. The

LADO will advise the Headteacher about whether to complete Form 1 (Appendix 10), or treat the matter internally via other policies (eg. disciplinary/capability). For additional information about the process we refer to the flowchart produced by the LSCB (www.safeguardingchildreninstockport.org.uk).

If the allegation was made against the Headteacher the Chair of Governors should contact the Local Area Designated Officer immediately to ask for advice about how to proceed.

All staff are made aware of this policy at least annually.

KS4 Work Experience/Placements

School Organised Work Experience/Placements

When we are placing students on work placements/experience, we do so without a CRB check for students in accordance with Safeguarding Children and Safer Recruitment in Education (2007). Initially we consider carefully where to place a young person, considering any aspects of vulnerability that they may have. Parental consent is obtained. We also ensure that the young people are made aware that they will need to verify their identity on arrival at their placement. We also check the suitability of the placement by asking the employer to endorse the principles of child protection, making them aware where to refer the matter if they had concerns about a young person, and by making a decision about whether a CRB check is required about the employer. We record our decision if we decide not to complete a CRB check about the employer.

Work Experience/Placements Organised by other providers

When we contract other providers to place students on work placements/experience, we ensure that the contract requires the provider to effectively carry out our procedures for Safeguarding and Health and Safety. We regular monitor the compliance by the provider with the contract we have established. The provider (insert name) will place students working at KS4 without a CRB check in accordance with Safeguarding Children and Safer Recruitment in Education (2007). We expect the provider to work with us to consider carefully where to place a young person, considering any aspects of vulnerability that they may have. When parental consent has been obtained and where learners may be working with other children or vulnerable adults (e.g. in a nursery or care home) we expect the provider to pass the details of the learner to the LA 14-19 team who carry out a check with the Youth Offending Team to determine suitability for the placement, in accordance with our local procedures. We expect the provider to ensure that the young people are made aware that they will need to verify their identity on arrival at their placement. The provider will check the suitability of the placement by asking the employer to endorse the principles of child protection, making them aware where to refer the matter if they had concerns about a young person, and by making a decision about whether a CRB check is required about the employer. These matters are considered in greater detail by the provider when there is a long term placement (equivalent to more than 10/15 working days) in accordance with Appendix 14 of Safeguarding Children and Safer Recruitment in Education (2007). If the provider decides that a CRB check about the employer is not necessary they record their decision. We expect the provider to complete all the necessary health and safety checks in accordance with our health and safety policy.

Early Years' Foundation Stage (EYFS)

1. designate a practitioner to take lead responsibility for safeguarding children within the EYFS setting and liaising with local statutory children's agencies as appropriate (Ofsted currently allows this role to be assumed by a member of staff who does not specifically work within EYFS);
2. **for registered settings**, inform Ofsted of any allegations of serious 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.
3. **for registered settings**, inform Ofsted of the above, as soon as is reasonably practicable, but at the latest within 14 days.

The wider safeguarding agenda

This policy should also be read in conjunction with the following :

- Behaviour management
- Anti-bullying
- Care and Control
- Health and Safety
- Acceptable Use
- Managing Attendance
- Children Missing from Home and Education

The views of our young people

In our school the views of our young people are very important to us.

We make sure that our young people know that our staff are always prepared to listen to them. Young people are made aware that they can report any concerns verbally and/or through the

- Incident sheets
- Parents/guardians

They also complete an anonymous questionnaire annually that specifically asks them to report how safe they feel in our school.

We use the findings to inform our school development plan, curriculum developments and specific interventions for individual young people.

Reporting to the Governing Body

Our Governing Body oversees the Headteachers' sound maintenance of all safeguarding procedures in line with this policy. The Headteacher has the day-to-day responsibility for maintaining these procedures with the backing of the Governing Body.

Our Governing Body will advise the Headteacher of its views on specific issues that will promote safeguarding in our school. This may for example be around promoting a parental understanding of the agenda.

Our Governing Body does not discuss any individual cases and never requests to see individual pupil records, although we do ask the Headteacher to explain the effectiveness of their procedures.

The Governing Body shall undertake an annual review of the School's Safeguarding policies and procedures and of the efficiency within which the related duties have been discharged. Any deficiencies or weaknesses in safeguarding arrangements will be remedied without delay.

Ratification

This policy was agreed and adopted by our Governing Body

Signed:

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of several loops and a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Date for review: June 2011

Contact Information

OFSTED (North),
3rd Floor,
Royal Exchange Buildings,
St Ann's Square,
Manchester,
M2 9LA

Telephone: 0845 640 4040

Independent Schools' Inspectorate (ISI),
CAP House,
9-12 Long Lane,
London,
EC1A 9HA.

Telephone: 0207 610 0100

Website: www.isi.net

A Step-By-Step action plan to respond to a child protection concern

1. If the child needs urgent medical attention, obtain this first as a matter of urgency.

2. Discuss your concerns with the parent/carers only if this is appropriate. If this discussion may be inappropriate (when you have good reason to suppose that sexual abuse, fabricated or induced illness has taken place) immediately seek advice from your organisation's designated officer for child protection or the Duty Officer at the Safeguarding Children Unit (0161 474 5657), or Children's Social Care (08456 444 313)

3. If after talking to the child's parents/carers (where appropriate) you remain concerned make a child protection referral.

4. To do this:
Telephone the Contact Centre (08456 444 313) or the Out Of Hours Team (for emergencies only) on 0161 718 2118

Be prepared to give the following details:
Your name, address, contact number and your role
As many details about the child as you can, including name, date of birth, address etc.
What you have been told, or what has been observed
The action you have taken so far

5. Children's Social Care will then advise you on what to do next. Make sure you are clear about what you have to do before you end the phone call so that you can keep the child informed about what will happen next.

6. Keep accurate, dated records of what you have seen, heard and done. Remember to use the child's words in any recording that you make. Make sure your name is legible on any documents. Make sure all records are dated and pages numbered.

7. Follow up any calls to the contact centre with a CAF (Common Assessment Framework Form) and send it to the person you have spoken to detailing the main points of the conversation. Make sure that you are clear before ending your call to the Contact Centre about whether the parents/carers should be involved with the completion of the CAF.

Name of Child:

Date marks noticed:

Recorded by:

Role:

(Please record the size, shape, location and colour of the mark if you have seen something). **Do not** ask a child to show you a mark.

Report passed to:

Signed:

Date:

PLEASE NOTE THAT THIS IS NOT A MEDICAL ASSESSMENT

Please indicate:
this is a
front
or
back
view

