



SAFEGUARDING POLICY

Holmesdale Infant School fully recognises its responsibilities for child protection.

Our policy applies to all staff, governors and volunteers working the school.

1 Introduction

- 1.1** The health, safety and well-being of all our children are of paramount importance. Our children have the right to protection, regardless of age, gender, race, culture or disability. They have a right to be safe in our school.
- 1.2** In our school we respect our children. The atmosphere within our school is one that encourages all children to do their best. We provide opportunities that enable our children to take and make decisions for themselves.
- 1.3** Our teaching of personal, social and health education and citizenship, as part of the National Curriculum, helps to develop appropriate attitudes in our children and makes them aware of the impact of their decisions on others. We also teach them how to recognise different risks in different situations, and how to behave in response to them.

There are five main elements to our policy:

- Ensuring we practice safe recruitment in checking the suitability of staff and volunteers to work with children.
- Raising awareness of child protection issues and equipping children with the skills needed to keep them safe.
- Developing and then implementing procedures for identifying and reporting cases, or suspected cases, of abuse.
- Supporting pupils who have been abused in accordance with his / her agreed child protection plan.
- Establishing a safe environment in which children can learn and develop.

We recognise that because of the day to day contact with children, school staff are well placed to observe the outward signs of abuse. The school will therefore:

- Establish and maintain an environment where children feel secure, are encouraged to talk, and are listened to.
- Ensure children know that there are adults in the school whom they can approach if they are worried.
- Include opportunities in the PSHE and citizenship curriculum for children to develop the skills they need to recognise and stay safe.

We will follow the procedures set out by the Local Safeguarding Children Board and take account of guidance issued by the Department for Education and Skills.

Procedures

- Ensure we have a designated senior person for child protection who has received appropriate training and support for this role as outlined in the Local Authority Child Protection guidelines. The Headteacher is the named person.
- Ensure we have a nominated governor responsible for child protection. The Chair of Governors is the named person.
- Ensure every member of staff (including temporary and supply staff and volunteers) and governing body knows the name of the designated senior person responsible for child protection and their role.
- Ensure all staff and volunteers understand their responsibilities in being alert to the signs of abuse and responsibility for referring any concerns to the Headteacher. Abuse can be of a sexual, emotional or physical nature. It can also be the result of neglect.
- 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.
- Notify social services if there is an unexplained absence of more than two days of a pupil who is on the child protection register.
- The Headteacher and staff will develop effective links with relevant agencies and co-operate as required with their enquiries regarding child protection matters including attendance at case conferences.
- The Headteacher will keep confidential written records of concerns about children, even where there is no need to refer the matter immediately.
- The Headteacher will ensure all records are kept confidentially, separate from the main pupil file, and in locked locations.
- Follow Local Authority procedures where an allegation is made against a member of staff or volunteer.
- Ensure safe recruitment practices are always followed.
- If a child alleges abuse, the school will usually obtain advice without communicating with the parents first. In some circumstances we will inform parents first. This may result in a referral being made. All investigations will be handled in a sensitive manner.
- There may be times when trained and designated adults in our school, in the course of their duty, use physical intervention to restrain children. The Headteacher requires the adult involved in any such incident to report this to her immediately, and to record it in the interventions book. All staff will follow Local Authority guidelines on the use of force to control or restrain pupils.
- All adults in school receive regular training to raise their awareness of abuse and their knowledge of agreed local child protection procedures.

We recognise that for some children the school may be the only stable, secure and predictable element in the lives of children at risk. The school will endeavour to support the pupil through:

- The content of the curriculum.
- The school ethos which promotes a positive, supportive and secure environment and gives pupils a sense of being valued.
- The school behaviour policy which is aimed at supporting vulnerable pupils in the school. The school will ensure that the pupil knows that some behaviour is unacceptable but they are valued and not to be blamed for any abuse which has occurred.
- Liaison with other agencies that support the pupil such as social services, Child and Adult Mental Health Service, education welfare service and educational psychology service.
- Ensuring that, where a pupil on the child protection register leaves, their information is transferred to the new school immediately and that the child's social worker is informed.

Monitoring and Review

- The governing body regularly reviews any incidents detailed in the interventions book. A named governor participates in the school's training with regard to the child protection procedures. This policy is reviewed annually by the governing body.

Agreed by the governing body: 30th September 2009

To be reviewed: Reviewed: September 2010

Sources of Guidance and other documents which may be useful

- Derbyshire Child Protection & Safeguarding Procedures 2007.
www.derbyshirescb.org.uk
- DfES – Education Staff and Child Protection Staff facing an allegation of abuse
Guidelines on practice and procedures.
- DfES Managing allegations of abuse against staff.
- DfES Circular 10/95 'Protecting Children from Abuse: The Role of the Education Service'.
- Department of Health 'Working together to safeguard children 2006'.
- Use of force guidance – 2007 – Teachernet.
- Definitions and Thresholds for Managing Allegations against Education Staff.
IRSC. January 2004.
- Managing the Aftermath of Unfounded and Unsubstantiated Allegations.
IRSC. January 2004.
- What to do if you're Worried a Child is Being Abused. Dott 2003.
- Staff Subject to Allegations: Thresholds for and Alternatives to Suspensions.
IRSC. January 2004.
- Joint NEOST / Teacher Union Guidance on Preventing Abuse of Trust for
Teachers, Education Staff and Volunteers. September 2002.
www.lg-employers.gov.uk

List of Useful Contact Telephone Numbers

1. Education Department

Head of Education Personnel	01629 585904
	01629 580000 Ext 2904
LEA Lead Officer (Child Protection Education)	01773 728743
	07990 802632
Head of Social Inclusion	01629 580000 Ext 6450

2. Social Services Department

Child Protection Managers:

- North	01246 347636/5/4
- South	01773 728737

3. Police

Central Referral Unit for	
Child Protection Matters	01773 572073
	01773 572058