

Heart of England School
CHILD PROTECTION POLICY

Principles:

- This school recognises its responsibility to protect and safeguard the welfare of the young people entrusted to its care.
- The staff and governors of this school are committed to listening to, relating effectively and valuing each individual child and young person in our care.
- This school recognises its statutory responsibility to discuss with Education and Children's Services Duty Team (0121 788 4300) any significant concerns about any child which may indicate physical abuse, emotional abuse, sexual abuse or neglect in accordance with the Areas Child Protection Committee's child protection procedures.
- This school recognises its duty to work with other agencies in protecting students from harm and in responding to abuse.
- The welfare of the child is paramount at all times.

The Designated Member of Staff for Child Protection:

- The Designated Members of Staff for Child Protection in this school are:

Dr. Colin Pierpoint and Mrs. Jan Wilding
- The DMS will co-ordinate action on child abuse within the school, ensuring that all staff (including supply staff) are aware of their responsibilities in relation to child protection.

Responding:

- Any member of staff who has concerns about a student must report their concerns to the Designated Member of Staff for Child Protection.
- Following a report of concerns the DMS will interview the student, and may consult with the Education Welfare Officer, before a referral is made to Social Services. As a result of discussions with a Duty Social Worker, the DMS may be requested to inform a parent or guardian of the referral or this may be undertaken by a member of the Social Services Team. The DMS will confirm the details of the referral by a FAX to Social Services.
- If the suspicions in any way involve another member of staff, the matter needs to be brought to the attention of the Headteacher.

- If the suspicion in any way involves the Headteacher, advice needs to be sought from the LEA Child Protection representatives on the Area Child Protection Committee as per the ACPC Procedures (Section 7).
- This school is committed to supporting and training all staff in matters of child protection.

Recording Keeping:

- Any member of staff receiving disclosure of abuse from a child or young person, or noticing signs or symptoms of possible abuse in a child or young person, will make notes as soon as possible (within the hour if possible), writing down as exactly as possible, what was said or seen, putting the scene into context, and giving the time and location. Dates and times of events should be recorded as accurately as possible, together with a note of when the record was made. All records must be signed and dated clearly.
- All records of a child protection nature (hand written or typed) will be given to the DMS for safekeeping. This includes child protection conference minutes. Access to any records will be on a “need to know” basis.
- When a child who is on the Child Protection Register leaves the school, the DMS will inform the child’s new school immediately and discuss with the child’s Key Worker the transfer of any confidential information the school may hold.

The Curriculum:

- Through various aspects of the curriculum, staff will raise pupils’ awareness and build their confidence so that they have a range of contacts and strategies to ensure their own protection and they understand the importance of protecting others.
- The principles embedded in this policy link into other policies relating to: Health, PSHCE, RE, Sex Education, Bullying, Equal Opportunities and Special Educational Needs.

Training:

- The DMS will attend appropriate training for Child Protection with the LEA.
- The DMS will liaise with the appropriate person in the LEA with respect to ensuring that all staff have access to appropriate training.

Recruitment of staff and volunteers:

- Good practice guidance as outlined by the DfES and Solihull’s Human Resources Section should always be followed.

Governors:

- The Governors support the staff in carrying out their responsibilities with regard to child protection. The Governing Body will ensure that the school has a Child Protection Policy and that once a year child protection matters are raised at the Governors' meeting.
- The nominated Governor will attend appropriate training.
- The nominated Governor for child protection will be the link person with the LEA and investigating agencies where allegations are made against a Headteacher.

February 2008