

Ysgol Heulfan



Child Protection Policy

This Policy is still applicable with Covid19 and is possibly more important in times such as lockdown or self-isolation. If a member of staff has any concerns about a child, the concerns must be shared immediately with the Headteacher. If this is not possible, details must be passed on to SPOA (Single Point of Access) on 01978 292039. The out of hours contact number is 0845 0533116.

**Child Protection Designated Person:
Julia Thomas Haigh (Headteacher)**

Named Governor for Child Protection: Mrs Elaine Eyke

Introduction

1.1 Ysgol Heulfan fully recognises the contribution it makes to child protection.

There are three main elements of our policy:-

- a. prevention through the teaching and pastoral support offered to pupils;
 - b. procedures of identifying and reporting cases, or suspected cases, of abuse. Because of our day to day contact with children school staff are well placed to observe the outward signs of abuse; and
 - c. support to pupils who may have been abused.
- 1.2 Our policy applies to all staff and volunteers working in the school and governors. Learning support assistants, mid-day supervisors, caretakers, secretaries as well as teachers can be the first point of disclosure for a child. Concerned parents may also contact school governors.

Prevention

2.1 We recognise that high self-esteem, confidence, supportive friends and good lines of communication with a trusted adult helps prevention.

The school will therefore:-

- a. establish and maintain an ethos where children feel secure and are encouraged to talk, and are listened to;
- b. ensure children know that there are adults in the school whom they can approach if they are worried or in difficulty;
- c. include in the curriculum, activities and opportunities for PSE which equip children with the skills they need to stay safe from abuse and to know to whom to turn for help; and
- d. include in the curriculum, material which will help children develop realistic attitudes to the responsibilities of adult life, particularly with regard to childcare and parenting skills.

Procedures

- 3.1 We will follow the procedures set out in guidance produced by our Local Safeguarding Children Board which are in line with the Wales Safeguarding Procedures 2020.
- 3.2 The school will:-
 - a. ensure it has a designated senior member of staff who has undertaken the appropriate training provided by the local authority as a minimum;
 - b. recognise the role of the designated person and arrange support and training.
 - c. ensure every member of staff and every governor knows:-
 - the name of the designated person and their role;
 - that they have an individual responsibility for referring child protection concerns using the proper channels and within the timescales agreed with the Local Safeguarding Children Board; and
 - how to take forward those concerns where the designated person is unavailable.
 - d. ensure that members of staff are aware of the need to be alert to signs of abuse and know how to respond to a pupil who may tell of abuse;
 - e. 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 brochure;
 - f. provide training for all staff so that they know:-
 - i. their personal responsibility;
 - ii. the agreed local procedures;
 - iii. the need to be vigilant in identifying cases of abuse; and
 - iv. how to support a child who tells of abuse.
 - g. notify the local social services team if:-
 - it should have to exclude a pupil on the child protection register either for a fixed term or permanently; and
 - if there is an unexplained absence of a pupil on the child protection register of more than two days duration from school (or one day following a weekend);
 - h. work to develop effective links with relevant agencies and co-operate as required with their enquiries regarding child protection matters including attendance at initial case conferences, core groups and child protection review conferences.
 - i. keep written records of concerns about children (noting the date, event and action taken), where there is no need to refer the matter to social services immediately;

- j. ensure all records are kept secure and in locked locations.
- k. adhere to the procedures set out in the Welsh Assembly Government guidance circular⁴⁰ when an allegation is made against a member of staff;
- l. ensure the criminal background of applicants for vacant posts are checked in accordance with Welsh Assembly Government guidance circular “Child Protection: Preventing Unsuitable People from working with Children in the Educational Sector⁴¹”; and
- m. designate a governor for child protection who will oversee the school’s child protection policy and practice.

Supporting the Pupil at Risk

- 4.1 We recognise that children who are abused or witness violence 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.
- 4.2 This 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.
- 4.3 The school will endeavour to support the pupil through:-
 - a. the content of the curriculum to encourage self esteem and self motivation (see section 2 on Prevention);
 - b. the school ethos which:-
 - i. promotes a positive, supportive and secure environment; and
 - ii. gives pupils a sense of being valued (see section 2 on Prevention);
 - c. the school’s behaviour policy is aimed at supporting vulnerable pupils in the school. All staff will agree on a consistent approach which focuses on the behaviour of the offence committed by the child but does not damage the pupil’s sense of self worth. The school will endeavour to ensure that the pupil knows that some behaviour is unacceptable but s/he is valued and not to be blamed for any abuse which has occurred;
 - d. liaison with other agencies who support the student such as Social Services, Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services, and Educational Psychology Service, Behaviour Support Services and Education Welfare Service; and
 - e. keeping records and notifying Social Services as soon as there is a recurrence of a concern;
- 4.4 When a pupil on the child protection register leaves, we will transfer information to the new school immediately and inform Social Services.

Bullying

- 4.5 Our policy on bullying is set out in (a separate document / the school's behaviour policy) and is reviewed annually by the governing body.

Physical Intervention

- 4.6 Our policy on physical intervention is set out in (a separate document) and is reviewed annually by the governing body.

Children with Statements of Special Educational Needs

- 4.7 We recognise that statistically children with behavioural difficulties and disabilities are most vulnerable to abuse. School staff who deal with children with profound and multiple disabilities, cerebral palsy, sensory impairment and or emotional and behaviour problems will be particularly sensitive to signs of abuse.

This Policy has been equality impact assessed and is compliant with the Equality Act 2010.

Adopted by the staff and ratified by the Governing Body.

For and on behalf of the Governing Body

Headteacher: J Thomas Haigh

Date: Autumn Term 2022

Due for revision: Autumn Term 2023

