

Furze Platt Senior School



Child Protection Policy

The governors and staff at Furze Platt Senior School fully recognise their responsibilities for child protection and will promote an ethos in which safeguarding is openly discussed and has a high profile.

This policy links with other safeguarding policies, namely Anti-Bullying policy, Internet Safety policy.

Our policy applies to all staff, governors and volunteers working in the school. There are five main elements to our policy:

- Ensuring we practise 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 curriculum for children to develop the skills they need to recognise, and stay safe from, abuse.

We will follow the procedures set out by the Area Child Protection Committee and take account of guidance issued by the Department for Education and Skills to:

- Ensure we have a designated person for child protection who has received appropriate training and support for this role, and a member of staff, who will act in the designated person's absence, who has also received training.
- Ensure all staff and volunteers understand their responsibilities in being alert to the signs of abuse and responsibility for referring any concerns to the Designated Person responsible for child protection.
- 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 handbook for Year 7 pupils and by publishing the Child Protection policy on the school website.
- Develop effective links with relevant agencies and co-operate as required with their enquiries regarding child protection matters including attendance at case conferences.
- Keep written records of concerns about children, even where there is no need to refer the matter immediately.
- Ensure all records are kept securely, separate from the main pupil file, and in locked locations.
- Develop and then follow procedures where an allegation is made against a member of staff or volunteer.
- Ensure safe recruitment practices are always followed by carrying out checks on staff suitability, including CRB checks, as recommended by the LA in accordance with current legislation.
- Ensure all pupils are taught to use the Internet safely, in line with the recommendation of the school policy.

We recognise that children who are abused or witness violence may find it difficult to develop a sense of self worth. They may feel helplessness, humiliation and some sense of blame. The school may be the only stable, secure and predictable element in the lives of children at risk. When at school their behaviour may be challenging and defiant or they may be withdrawn. The school will endeavour to support the pupil through:

- 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.

Procedures to be followed

- All governors will receive appropriate safeguarding training to enable them to discharge their child protection responsibilities.
- All staff new to the school will receive child protection and safeguarding training as part of their induction.
- All staff to be trained on a regular basis, at least every 3 years, so that they are aware of the possible signs of abuse and the procedures to be followed. Appropriate records of this training will be kept.
- All staff should be alert and sensitive to pupils, so that changes in behaviour, suspicious injuries and signs of abuse are noticed and reported.
- If a child makes an allegation of abuse, listen carefully, whilst giving the child reassurance. Do not promise to keep an allegation or disclosure secret or ask probing questions.
- Record all concerns, observations or disclosures in writing as soon as possible and give a written report to the Designated Person for child protection.
- Maintain pupil confidentiality, once the concern has been reported.
- All pupils in Year 7 will receive teaching on Internet safety.

Designated teacher for Child Protection	Mary Morris (Jenny Lockwood during MM maternity)
Designated deputy for Child Protection	Jenny Lockwood (Jemma Barney during MM maternity)
Designated governor for Child Protection	Jo Lackovic

Implementation, monitoring and evaluation

- This policy is implemented on a day to day basis as part of the pastoral support programme for students. It is monitored and evaluated by the Governors' Pupil & Parents Committee annually.

Role of the Designated Person for Child Protection

1. Making referrals to social care if there are concerns about a child's welfare, possible abuse or neglect.
2. Ensuring that detailed and accurate written records of concerns about a child are kept even if there is no need to make an immediate referral.
3. Ensuring that all such records are kept confidentially and securely and are separate from pupil records, with a front sheet listing dates and brief entry to provide a chronology. An indication of further record-keeping should be marked on the pupil's general record.
4. Acting as a focal point for staff concerns and liaising with other agencies and professionals.
5. Ensuring that either they or another appropriately informed member of staff attends case conferences or other planning meetings, contributes to the assessment process, and provides a report which has been shared with the parents.
6. Ensuring that any absence, without satisfactory explanation, of a pupil currently subject to a child protection plan is referred to their Education Welfare Officer and the keyworker for the child protection plan immediately.
7. Ensuring that all school staff are aware of the school's Child Protection policy and procedures, and know how to recognise and refer any concerns.
8. Keeping themselves up to date with knowledge to enable them to fulfil their role, including attending relevant training, at least every two years.
9. Ensuring that all staff receive basic child protection awareness training at least every three years.
10. Providing an annual report for the Governing Body, detailing any training undertaken by staff and governors, number and type of incidents/cases, referrals to children's social care and children subject to child protection plans (anonymised).
11. Notifying social care when a child attending the school is privately fostered.
12. Ensuring that any concerns about a pupil who leaves the school are forwarded under confidential cover to the Designated Person at the pupil's new school as a matter of urgency. The original copy of significant documents will be retained at our school and photocopies forwarded as above.