

Our Lady Queen of Peace RCVA Primary School



**SAFEGUARDING YOUNG
PEOPLE POLICY**

Purpose and aim

Our Lady Queen of Peace R.C. Primary School's whole-school safeguarding policy aims to provide clear direction to staff and others about expected codes of behaviour in dealing with child protection issues. The policy also aims to make explicit the school's commitment to the development of good practice and sound procedures. The purpose of the policy is, therefore, to ensure that child protection concerns and referrals are handled sensitively, professionally and in ways that support the needs of the child.

Introduction

Our Lady Queen of Peace R.C. Primary School fully recognises the contribution it can make to protect the children and support the pupils in its care. There are three main elements to the school's safeguarding policy:

1. Prevention (positive school atmosphere, careful and vigilant teaching, pastoral care, support to pupils, providing good adult role models)
2. Protection (following agreed procedures, ensuring staff are trained and supported to respond appropriately and sensitively to child protection concerns)
3. Support (to pupils and school staff and to children who may have been abused)

This policy applies to all employees of Our Lady Queen of Peace R.C. Primary School and those representing the school in a voluntary or training capacity.

Framework

Schools do not operate in isolation. Child protection is the responsibility of all adults and especially those working with children. Our Lady Queen of Peace R.C. Primary School's aim is to help protect the children in its care by working consistently and appropriately with child protection agencies.

Child protection is the responsibility of all adults especially those working with children. The development of appropriate procedures and the monitoring of good practice are the responsibilities of Sunderland's Local Safeguarding Children's Board

'We are committed to respond in accordance with the Sunderland's Local Safeguarding Board Procedures in all cases where there is a concern about significant harm'

Significant harm

Local Authorities duty is to investigate (S47 of the Children Act 1989). Where a Local Authority is informed that a child who is living, or is found, in their area is either subject to an emergency protection order, Police protection or they have reasonable cause to suspect suffering or is likely to suffer significant harm they must make such enquiries as necessary to promote or safeguard the child's welfare. The Children's Services Social Care Department undertake this responsibility on behalf of the Authority once a referral has been made.

Harm means ill treatment or the impairment of health or development; development means physical, intellectual, emotional, social or behaviour development.

Health means physical or mental health.

Ill-treatment includes sexual abuse and forms of ill-treatment which are not physical.

Note: harm now includes the impairment of a child's health or development as a result of witnessing the ill treatment of another person (Adoption and Children Act 2002)

Significance could exist in the seriousness of the harm or the implication of it. This will be a finding of fact for courts. The court will have to establish which standard of health and development would be reasonable to expect for a child with similar attributes, assess the shortfall against the standard and decide whether the difference represents significant harm.

(Children Act guidelines and Regulation),

Parents/carers should be aware that the school will take any reasonable action to safeguard the welfare of its pupils. In cases where the school has reason to be concerned that a child may be subject to significant harm, ill-treatment, neglect or other forms of abuse, staff have no alternative but to follow the LSCB Safeguarding Children Procedures and inform the Children's Services Social Care department or the Police Public Protection Unit of their concern.

Roles and responsibilities

All adults working with or on behalf of children have a responsibility to protect children. Within Our Lady Queen of Peace R.C. Primary School the following individuals have special responsibilities:

- Mrs B. Reilly-O'Donnell (Designated Person) Mr F. Lane (Nominated Deputy)
 - The designated person and nominated deputy are required to co-ordinate all matters relating to safeguarding/child protection issues. These will include:
 - Dealing with reports of abuse against children.
 - Dealing with complaints against staff (employees and volunteers of Our Lady Queen of Peace R.C. School).
 - Making referrals to child protection agencies if appropriate
 - Keeping the head teacher fully informed of all child protection issues that may arise.
 - Ensuring all staff /governors(employees/volunteers of Our Lady Queen of Peace R.C. Primary School) receive training in Safeguarding/Child Protection every 3 years
 - Ensuring that all new staff (employees and volunteers of Our Lady Queen of Peace R.C. School) are properly inducted in safeguarding issues
 - Liaise with the school governor with special responsibility for child protection as appropriate

- Mr J. Hindmarch is the school governor with special responsibility for child protection. Their role is to liaise with the Designated Person on matters relating to safeguarding/ child protection issues and participate in the annual review of policy.

Procedures

The designated person will be informed immediately by an employee of the school, pupil of the school, parent of the school, other persons, in the following circumstances

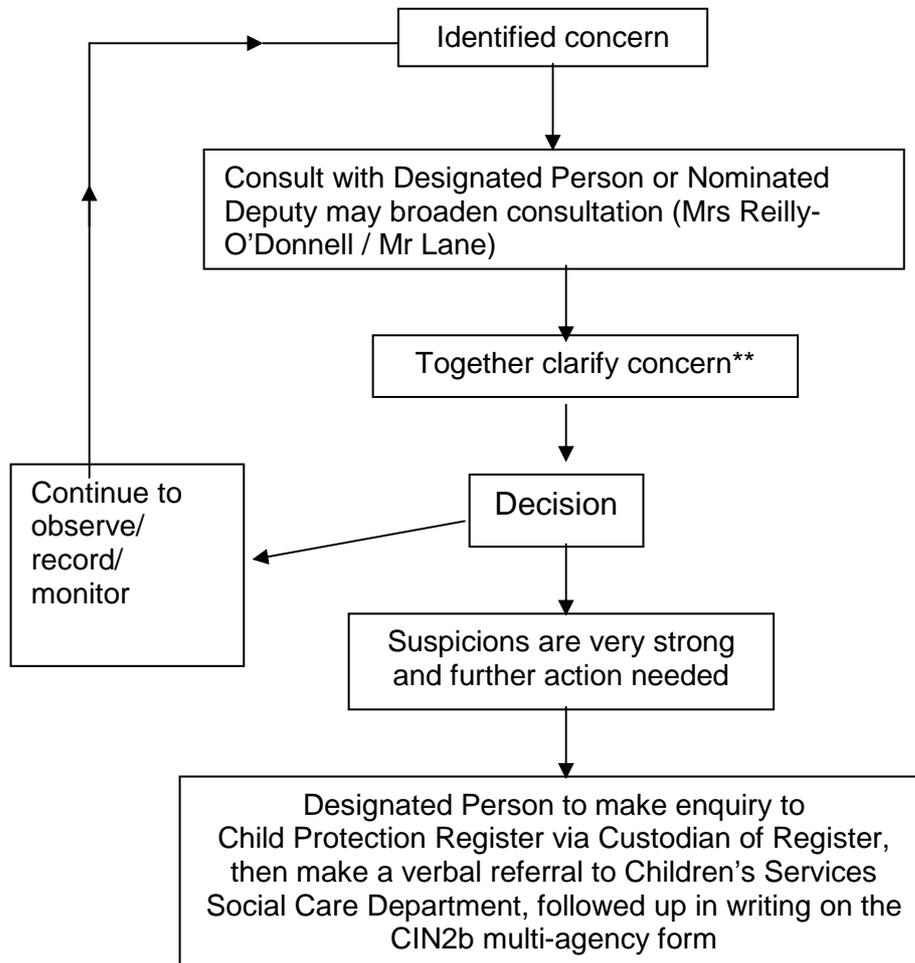
- Suspicion that a child is being abused.
- There is evidence that a child is being abused.

The Designated person will keep a full record of reports made and make referrals to child protection agencies if necessary.

Referrals

Channels of communication should be quick and clear:

Suspected Child At Risk **Action to take**



** Any member of staff who is unhappy with the joint decision made with the Designated Person can contact the Education Safeguarding Team

Safe Schools /Safe staff

Complaints against employees

A child protection complaint involving a member of staff must be reported to the Head teacher immediately. If the complaint involves the head teacher then the next most senior member of staff must be informed. Consultation without delay with the Education Safeguarding Team will determine what action follows. A multi agency strategy meeting will be arranged to look at the complaint in its widest context, the head /a senior member of school staff must attend this meeting.

Training and Support

Our Lady Queen of Peace R.C. Primary School ensure that the, Designated Person, Nominated Deputy and governor with special responsibility for child protection receive training relevant to their role. The school also ensure that all its employees are kept informed about child protection issues through a programme of staff Inset.

Professional confidentiality

Confidentiality is an issue which needs to be understood by all those working with children, particularly in the context of child protection. Our Lady Queen of Peace R.C. Primary School recognises that the only purpose of confidentiality in this respect is to benefit the child.

Records and monitoring

Well-kept records are essential to good child protection practice. Our Lady Queen of Peace R.C. Primary School is clear about the need to record any concerns held about a child or children within its care, the status of such records and when these records should be passed over to outside agencies.

Attendance at Child Protection conferences

In the event of Our Lady Queen of Peace R.C. Primary School being invited to attend a child protection conference, the designated Person will represent the school and provide information relevant to Child protection conference (Initial/Review). Using the Pro forma in Sunderland's LSCB Safeguarding Children Procedures

Supporting children

Our Lady Queen of Peace R.C. Primary School recognises that children who are abused or who witness violence may find it difficult to develop a sense of self-worth and to view the world in a positive way the school may be the only stable, secure and predictable element in the lives of some of the children under its care. The school, therefore, recognises that such children might exhibit challenging and defiant behaviour and will take careful note of the context of such behaviour.

Our Lady Queen of Peace R.C. Primary School also recognises that some children who have experienced abuse may in turn abuse others. This requires a considered and sensitive approach in order that the child can receive appropriate help and support.

Our Lady Queen of Peace R.C. Primary School will endeavour to support all its pupils through:

- The curriculum, to encourage self-esteem and self-motivation
- The school ethos, which promotes a positive, supportive and secure environment and which gives all pupils and adults a sense of being respected and valued
- A coherent management of behaviour
- A consistent approach which recognises and separates the cause of behaviour from that which the child displays. This is vital to ensure that all pupils are supported within the school setting
- Liaison with other professionals and agencies who support children and parents
- A commitment to develop productive, supportive relationships with parents whenever it is in the child's interest to do so
- The development and support of a responsive and knowledgeable staff group whose role it is to respond appropriately in child protection situations.

Our Lady Queen of Peace R.C. Primary School recognises that, statistically, children with behavioural difficulties and disabilities are the most vulnerable to abuse. School staff who work, in any capacity, with children with profound and multiple disabilities, sensory impairment and/or emotional and behavioural problems will need to be particularly sensitive to signs of abuse.

Our Lady Queen of Peace R.C. Primary School also recognises that in a home environment where there is domestic violence, drug or alcohol abuse, children may also be vulnerable and in need of support and protection.

This policy should be read in conjunction with other related policies in school. These include.... (for example)

- Recruitment and Selection
- Behaviour Management Policy
- Bullying
- Positive handling of challenging behaviour
- Special Education Needs
- Health and Safety Our health and safety policy sets out in a separate document and is reviewed annually by the governing body. It reflects the consideration we give to the protection of our children both within the school environment and when away from the school when undertaking school trips and visits.
- Sex and Relationships Education

The school will operate safe recruitment practice including ensuring appropriate CRB and reference checks are undertaken according to circular DfES 0278/2002 child protection; preventing unsuitable people from working with children and young people in the Education Service

The school will ensure that all staff and volunteers are aware of the need for maintaining appropriate and professional boundaries in their relationships with pupils and parents as advised by the Children's Services Code of Conduct for all employees.

The school will ensure that staff and volunteers are aware that sexual relationships with pupils aged under 18 are unlawful and could result in legal proceedings taken against them under the Sexual Offences Act 2003 (Abuse of position of trust)

This policy has been informed by the following:

- Education Act 2002
- Sunderland LEA procedures for dealing with allegations/complaints against staff
- Framework for the Assessment of Children and Families
- Children Act 1989
- Working together to safeguard children DOH (2006)
- Sunderland's Local Safeguarding children procedures
- Circular 0027/04 Safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children etc
- Inquiries (national/local) informing and improving practices
- United Nations Charter for the Child
- Data Protection Act
- Sexual Offences Act 2003
- Protection of Children Act 2000
- Freedom of Information Act
- Report of the Bichard Enquiry 2004

Whole-School Policy on Child Protection/Safeguarding Children/Young People

School.....Our Lady Queen of Peace R.C. Primary.....

Academic Year	Designated Person	Deputy Designated Person	Nominated Governor (if available)
07/08	F. Johnston	F. Lane	Mr J. Hindmarsh
08/09	As above	“	Mr J. Hindmarsh
09/10	As Above	“	Mr J. Hindmarsh
10/11	As Above	“	Mr J. Hindmarsh
11/12	As Above	“	Mr J. Hindmarsh
12/13	As Above	“	Mr J. Hindmarsh
13/14	B. Reilly O'Donnell	“	Mr J. Hindmarsh

A. Named staff/personnel with designated responsibility for Child Protection

Review Date	Changes made	By whom
1.9.13	Change to Designated Person (Appointment of new Head Teacher)	Chair of Governors