

Cantonian High School Ysgol Uwchradd Cantonian



Child Protection Policy

November 2009

CANTONIAN HIGH SCHOOL: CHILD PROTECTION POLICY

This policy was adopted by Governors
on.....

Our policy is:

- To nominate a Child Protection Officer (see appendix A)
(in the event of the Co-ordinator being unavailable the Headteacher should be contacted)
- To nominate a Governor with special responsibility for Child Protection (see Appendix A)
- To honour a statutory obligation to work with other agencies, to promote an understanding and build relationships with these agencies, notably Social Services
- To raise awareness amongst both teaching and non-teaching staff of the need for child protection and their responsibilities in identifying and reporting possible cases of abuse
- To emphasise the need for good levels of communication between all members of staff
- To raise awareness of child protection procedures established by Area Child Protection Committees
- To address child protection issues within the PSE curriculum
- To monitor children who have been identified as 'at risk' or 'in need'
- To support the child's development in ways which will foster security, confidence and independence
- To develop and maintain a network of support for young people and adult members of the school community

Process

The School has identified the following processes whereby children at risk can be identified and their needs responded to promptly and efficiently.

Making Staff aware of the types of child abuse:

Physical: non-accidental cuts, bruises, wounds, burns, fractures, bites, poisoning, etc.

Neglect: chronic inattention to a child's basic needs for warmth, shelter, food, clothing, etc.

Emotional: extreme denial of love, attention, security and well-being

Sexual: actual or likely sexual exploitation of a child or adolescent.

Exposure to domestic violence

Making children aware that openness is a key feature of Child Protection:

The school aims to create an atmosphere of openness, whereby children can feel secure and that their concerns will be listened to. What they say will be taken seriously and every effort will be made to foster sensitive relationships between staff and pupils. Pupils should be confident to approach adults if in difficulties.

Making children aware of Child Protection through the PSE Curriculum:

If children are being injured or emotionally abused within the school by fellow pupils, they will be protected (see Anti-Bullying Policy).

Procedures

The following guidelines on procedures are based on the fundamental principle that staff are trained to act professionally, neither jumping to a conclusion unreasonably nor failing to act on genuine concerns. The following procedures must be followed:

Monitoring Concerns

Step 1: A written record is required giving details of an incident or information given by a pupil on an information sheet.

Step 2: The incident or information given must be discussed immediately with the Child Protection Officer (or Headteacher).

Referrals

A referral should not be seen as an allegation that abuse has necessarily occurred. However, the school has a responsibility to ensure the welfare of all children and occasionally cases may need to be referred to other investigative agencies as a constructive and helpful measure.

Following a disclosure of alleged child abuse being made by a member of staff, the Child Protection Officer (or Headteacher) will decide whether it is

necessary to make a referral to the Duty Team of the Child Protection Unit within the Social Services Department. A referral by telephone must be followed up in writing within 24 hours.

At all times, written records must be kept and retained confidentially in a secure location.

If a member of staff has been allegedly involved in a case of abuse, the Headteacher will act in accordance with LEA inter-agency procedures. Although the protection of the interest of the child is the priority, the legitimate interests of a teacher or other accused person must also be recognised as they may be falsely accused.

Case Conferences

A commitment to attend inter-agency conferences is recognised as a priority.

Confidentiality

A member of staff should listen to a child's version of events:

- with tact and sympathy
- without interruption
- and keep accurate records of the discussion to pass on to the Child Protection Officer. In doing so they must not:
 - ask leading questions
 - give undertakings of absolute confidentiality
 - fail to disclose records/ conversation to the Child Protection Officer.

Review

This policy is to be reviewed every 3 years.

APPENDIX A

Nominated Child Protection Officer:	September 2008	Mrs J Savage
Nominated Governor: Jones	September 2009	Mrs D Martin-

Nominated Child Protection Officer:.....
Nominated Governor:

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