



CHILD PROTECTION POLICY

Rationale

The total well-being of our children is of the utmost importance to their continuing growth and development. They have the right to have their needs met in a safe environment.

Purposes

1. The safety and dignity of the child is paramount.
2. To provide staff with guidelines so they can identify signs of abuse or neglect.
3. To provide procedures for dealing with cases of abuse or neglect.

Definitions

Sexual Abuse occurs when someone uses his or her power or authority over the child or takes advantage of the child's trust and respect to involve the child in sexual activity.

Physical Abuse is non-accidental injury by somebody and also includes abusive administration of drugs or alcohol to a child.

Emotional Abuse is when self esteem is attacked by somebody to coerce the victim into doing what the abuser wants them to do.

Neglect is a denial of the basic needs/rights of nurture, food and shelter, so that the victim fails to thrive. It must be seen as a form of child abuse.

School Community is our school staff, Board of Trustees, visitors within the school and the children.

Guidelines

1. Members of our school community will be expected to be receptive and sensitive to children, so that the children feel listened to and believed.
2. Information will be available to staff about how to identify the signs of child abuse.
3. Staff are to be aware of reporting procedures of child abuse.
4. The Principal and SENCO will liaise with outside support agencies as required.
5. All information and discussions will be confidential to the staff and other parties directly involved.

Procedures

1. Staff suspecting that a child is being abused shall report their concerns to their syndicate leaders or senior teacher.
2. Factual written records are to be kept of all relevant detail along with dates and times. These records are confidential.
3. The Principal will be informed of any allegation. The Principal will immediately take all steps to ensure the safety of the child.
4. Wherever possible staff shall have a witness present when listening to allegations.
5. The Principal reports to an agency with statutory powers to act (Ministry for Vulnerable Children, Police, Care and Protection Agency). At this point the principal informs the Board through the Board chair.
6. Support is to be made available to the allegedly abused child, the home and the class teacher using the most appropriate personnel (e.g. Staff, Special Education Service, Health Nurse).

7. Where a report is received by the school from someone outside the school, that person is to be directed to contact a helping agency. The school does not become involved.
8. Guardians or caregivers are to be fully informed by the Principal and in consultation with a statutory agency of the alleged abuse, except when it is believed that the child could be put at risk.
9. Any agency involved in a case will be responsible for communicating further information to the parents.
10. Where the school receives information of an 'outside of school' concern, we will direct them to the relevant agency to report any concerns they have.

Review

This policy is to be reviewed every 3 years by the Board in accordance with the self review timetable.

This policy is approved by the Greenhithe School Board of Trustees

Signed: Date:
Board of Trustees Chairman

Review Date: