

Stopsley High School

CHILD PROTECTION POLICY

Stopsley High School fully recognises its responsibilities for child protection.

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. We will seek to deter unsuitable staff, paid or voluntary.
- Raising awareness of child protection issues and equipping children with the skills needed to keep themselves 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. This is done via tutors and SEN students are supported via the SENCO and TA`s.
- Include activities and opportunities in the PSCHE and Learn 4 Life curriculum for children to develop the skills they need to recognise and stay safe from abuse.
- Include in the curriculum material which will help children develop realistic attitudes for the responsibilities of adult life.

We will follow the procedures set out by the Luton Local Safeguarding Children Board and take account of guidance issued by the Department for Education to:

- Ensure that all staff are aware of and follow the DfE Keeping Children Safe in Education Guidance - 2016
- Ensure staff are aware of the Safeguarding Policy
- Ensure that all students are aware of the Safeguarding Policy
- Ensure we have a designated teacher for child protection who has received appropriate training and support for this role. This is Pam Whiting supported by Sharon Jeycock.
- Ensure we have a nominated governor responsible for child protection. This is Bernie Dunne.
- Ensure every member of staff, volunteer and governor knows the name of the designated teacher responsible for child protection and their role.
- 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 teacher responsible for child protection. This is done by regular training sessions.

- Ensure all staff, parents and those supporting trips are informed of the name of the designated person 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 prospectus.
- Notify social services if there is an unexplained absence of more than two days of a pupil who is on the child protection register. This is done by Sharon Jeacock.
- Develop effective links with relevant agencies and co-operate as required with their enquiries regarding child protection matters including attendance at case conferences by Pam Whiting or Sharon Jeacock.
- Information on Child Protection cases will only be shared within the school with those who need it in order to ensure the safety of the children concerned and with the permission of the chair leading the Child Protection Plan.
- 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. This is managed by Sharon Jeacock. Only the Child Protection person, the alternative co-ordinator and the Headteacher should have access to these files.
- Investigate and then follow procedures, set out by Luton Local Safeguarding Children Board, where an allegation is made against a member of staff or volunteer.
- Ensure safe recruitment practices are always followed, this is managed by Sue Ballard.

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 content of the curriculum.
- The school ethos which promotes a positive, supportive and secure environment and gives pupils a sense of being valued.
- The school behaviour policy, BOSS, 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 Adolescent 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.
- This policy should be read in conjunction with the IT Safety Policy.

Stopsley High School will be aware of its responsibilities within the OFSTED framework of inspections. All staff within Stopsley High School must understand the importance of safeguarding and its link with the overall effectiveness of the school, the clear link to the inspection framework and the limiting judgement that can be given in regard to safeguarding.