



CHILD PROTECTION POLICY

Last review date

Ratified 21.10.2009

OLD BUCKENHAM HIGH SCHOOL

CHILD PROTECTION POLICY

At Old Buckenham High School we believe strongly that we have a significant part to play in protecting children and preventing abuse, not only by adopting sound policies and procedures regarding the management of situations where there is suspected or disclosed abuse, but also through the curriculum. We aim to help students acquire relevant information, skills and attitudes both to resist abuse in their own lives and to prepare them for the responsibilities of their adult lives. We will ensure that parents/carers have an understanding of the responsibility placed on the school and staff for child protection (school brochure).

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

Our policy applies to all staff, governors and volunteers working in the school and consists of five main elements:

- Ensuring we practice 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

Safe recruitment

We will ensure that safe recruitment practices are always followed and that appropriate training is given to relevant staff and governors. We will also establish a training schedule to ensure the availability of a qualified adult when recruiting staff.

Raising awareness of child protection issues

We will ensure that every member of staff (including temporary and supply staff) and the governing body knows the name of the designated senior person responsible for child protection and the procedures to follow. This will be achieved through training on the INSET day at the beginning of each academic year and briefing of new members of staff as and when required.

Parents will gain an understanding of the responsibility placed on the school and staff for child protection by the school setting out its obligations in the school prospectus.

Developing and implementing procedures

- We will ensure there is a designated senior person for child protection who has received appropriate training and support for this role.
- We will also ensure that we have a nominated governor responsible for child protection.
- A guide on how to recognise signs of abuse and the procedures to follow will be issued to every employee at Old Buckenham High School (Appendix A) and will be updated when necessary to accommodate new legislation or guidance.
- Detailed training will be organised through a rolling programme of INSET.
- We will notify social services if there is an unexplained absence of more than two days of a pupil who is on the child protection register.
- We will develop effective links with relevant agencies and co-operate as required with their enquiries regarding child protection matters including attendance at case conferences.
- We will keep written records of concerns about children, even where there is no need to refer the matter immediately.
- All records will be kept securely in a locked location and separate from the main pupil file. A note on the main pupil file will refer to the existence of confidential information held by the designated child protection teacher.
- We will follow procedures where an allegation is made against a member of staff or volunteer. (Appendix B)

Supporting pupils

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 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.

Establishing a safe environment

We recognise that, because of the day to day contact with children, school staff are well placed to observe the outward signs of abuse. 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 form time and in the curriculum for children to develop the skills they need to recognise and stay safe from abuse
- regularly give guidance through assemblies and other gatherings
- actively promote the peer mentoring system to support children with worries

Associated policies and documents:

Anti-bullying policy

Behaviour and discipline policy

Internet access agreement