

THE FRIARY SCHOOL
CHILD PROTECTION POLICY

Issue No: 6
Date: Summer 2007
Review: 2010

This policy is designed to support all the School Aims, and specifically objectives 8, 9, 12, 16, 17, 18 and 19. More specifically, the aims of this policy are:

- To ensure that the school complies with current legislation;
- To ensure the protection of all the pupils in school;
- To provide a formal structure for staff in dealing with child protection issues.

This policy also relates to other school documents especially our policies on Bullying, Educational Visits, Health and Safety, Pupil Welfare, Computer Security, Special Educational Needs, Work Related Earning, Connexions agreements and the statement in our school prospectus concerning the use of photography of pupils.

Statement of Practice

This school recognises its legal duty under s.175 Education Act 2002 and the 1989 Children Act, to work with other agencies in safeguarding children and protecting them from “significant harm”. The framework for such procedures is defined by DfES Circular 0027/September 2004 and the Staffordshire Area Child Protection Committee. These duties relate to all children and young people under the age of 18.

The staff seek to adopt an open and accepting attitude towards children as part of their responsibility for pastoral care. Staff hope that parents and children will feel free to talk about any concerns and will see school as a safe place if there are any difficulties at home. Children’s worries and fears will be taken seriously if they seek help from a member of staff. However, staff cannot guarantee confidentiality if concerns are such that referral must be made to the appropriate agencies in order to safeguard the child’s welfare.

If staff have significant concerns about any child which may indicate physical abuse, emotional abuse, sexual abuse or neglect, they are required to discuss them with the agencies responsible for investigation and child protection.

Staff who observe injuries which appear to be non-accidental, or who are told anything significant by a child, must report their concerns to the designated teacher.

School staff do not, however, carry out investigations, nor decide whether children have been abused. That is a matter for the specialist agencies.

All staff should be familiar with the procedures for keeping a confidential written record of any incidents and with the requirements of the local Area First Response Team. Advice may be sought from the Local Education Authority, the Social Services Department or the Police if staff are unsure how to proceed. Designated staff will attend relevant update meetings.

Child protection is important. The Governing Body will endeavour to ensure that sufficient resources are made available to enable the necessary tasks to be carried out properly under inter-agency procedures, including attending meetings, collating and writing assessment reports, staff training etc. The Governing Body will also ensure that all Governors have an understanding of child protection issues and the policies and procedures which are in place in the school to safeguard and promote the welfare of all pupils in the school.

Child protection issues will be addressed through the curriculum as appropriate, especially in Personal, Social and Health Education.

The school will also ensure that bullying is identified and dealt with so that any harm caused by other pupils can be minimised. [See Anti-Bullying Policy]. All children will be encouraged to show respect for others and to take responsibility for protecting themselves. Parents are expected to help children to behave in non-violent and non-abusive ways, towards both staff and other pupils.

Procedures are in place in accordance with national regulations to ensure the suitability of all staff who regularly work with children, including non-teaching staff and voluntary helpers.

If it is necessary to use restrictive physical intervention to protect a child from injury, to prevent a child from harming others, or if any child is injured accidentally, parents will be informed immediately. In such instances staff will act in accordance with specific DFES guidelines. Children will not be punished within school by any form of hitting, slapping or shaking or other degrading treatment.

Any complaints about staff behaviour may be made to the headteacher, or to the chairperson of the governors. All those involved will be entitled to a fair hearing, both children and staff. Complaints which raise child protection issues will be reported by the school under local inter-agency procedures.

- The designated teacher for all child protection matters in the school is:

Mrs B Broad

(In Mrs Broad's absence, Mr G Martin should be contacted)

- The nominated governor for child protection is Mrs J Davison.
- The nominated officer for child protection within the Local Education Authority, if parents are not satisfied with the school's response, is Mr Andrew Worrall, LEA Designated Officer for Child Protection, Education Office, Tipping Street, Stafford, ST16 2DH (Tel: 01785 223121 Ext. 8957).

Note: In this document the word 'child' refers to any pupil aged 11 - 18 years.

Procedures:

- Staff are provided with copies of Staffordshire County Council Child Protection Incident Report Forms. Any concern is to be recorded on this form and handed immediately to the Head of Year.
- Heads of Year to make First Response referral which will be placed in student file.
- Heads of Year to discuss with Designated Teacher as to action taken. Computer log made.
- Designated Teacher to decide on next course of action. This will involve consultation with designated member of School Leadership Group. In most circumstances, Heads of Year will contact parents/relevant outside agencies for Children in Need issues. Designated Teacher to take responsibility for Child Protection issues. The First Response Team will be the first agency contacted as established May 2006.
- Feedback to all relevant parties is essential.