

# **Child protection policy for Barry Comprehensive School**

## **1. Introduction**

*Barry Comprehensive School* fully recognises the contribution it makes to child protection. There are three main elements to our policy:

- prevention through the teaching and pastoral support offered to pupils
- procedures for identifying and reporting cases, or suspected cases, of abuse. Because of our day to day contact with children school staff are well placed to observe the outward signs of abuse
- support to pupils who may have been abused.

Our policy applies to all staff and volunteers working in the school and governors. Learning support assistants, mid-day supervisors, caretakers, secretaries as well as teachers can be the first point of disclosure for a child.

## **2. Prevention**

We recognise that high self-esteem, confidence, supportive friends and good lines of communication with a trusted adult helps to safeguard pupils.

The school will therefore:

- establish and maintain an ethos where children feel secure and 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 or in difficulty
- include in the curriculum, activities and opportunities for Personal Social Education (PSE) which equip children with the skills they need to stay safe from abuse and to know to whom to turn for help
- include in the curriculum, material which will help children develop realistic attitudes to the responsibilities of adult life, particularly with regard to childcare and parenting skills.

## **3. Procedures**

We will follow the All Wales Child Protection Procedures that have been endorsed by the Local Safeguarding Children Board. The school will:

- ensure it has a designated senior person for child protection who has undertaken the appropriate training
- recognise the role of the designated senior person and arrange support and training. Schools may wish to mention the additional training undertaken by their designated senior person
- ensure every member of staff and every governor knows:
  - the name of the designated senior person and their role and the designated governor for child protection
  - that they have an individual responsibility for referring child protection concerns using the proper channels and within the timescales agreed with the Local Safeguarding Children Board
  - how to take forward those concerns where the designated senior person is unavailable.
- ensure that members of staff are aware of the need to be alert to signs of abuse and know how to respond to a pupil who may disclose abuse

- 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 brochure
- provide training for all staff so that they know:
  - their personal responsibility
  - the agreed local procedures
  - the need to be vigilant in identifying cases of abuse
  - how to support a child who discloses abuse.
- notify the local social services team if:
  - a pupil on the child protection register is excluded either for a fixed term or permanently
  - if there is an unexplained absence of a pupil on the child protection register of more than two days duration from school (or one day following a weekend)
- work to develop effective links with relevant agencies and co-operate as required with their enquiries regarding child protection matters including attendance at initial review and child protection conferences and core groups and the submission of written reports to the conferences
- keep written records of concerns about children (noting the date, event and action taken), even where there is no need to refer the matter to social services immediately
- ensure all records are kept secure and in locked locations adhere to the procedures set out in the Welsh Government circular 002/2013: 'Disciplinary and Dismissal Procedures for School Staff'
- ensure that recruitment and selection procedures are made in accordance with Welsh Government guidance 'Keeping Learners Safe'
- designate a governor for child protection who will oversee the school's child protection policy and practice.

#### **4. Supporting the pupil at risk**

We recognise that children who are at risk, suffer abuse or witness violence may be deeply affected by this.

This school may be the only stable, secure and predictable element in the lives of children at risk. Nevertheless, 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 to encourage self-esteem and self-motivation
- the school ethos which:
  - promotes a positive, supportive and secure environment
  - gives pupils a sense of being valued
- the school's behaviour policy is aimed at supporting vulnerable pupils in the school. All staff will agree on a consistent approach which focuses on the behaviour of the offence committed by the child but does not damage the pupil's sense of self-worth. The school will endeavour to ensure that the pupil knows that some behaviour is unacceptable but s/he is valued and not to be blamed for any abuse which has occurred;
- liaison with other agencies who support the student such as Social Services, Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services, the Educational Psychology

Service, Behaviour Support Services, the Education Welfare Service and advocacy services

- keeping records and notifying Social Services as soon as there is a recurrence of a concern

When a pupil on the child protection register leaves, we will transfer information to the new school immediately and inform Social Services.

## **5. Bullying**

Our policy on bullying is set out in a separate document and is reviewed annually by the governing body.

## **6. Physical intervention**

Our policy on physical intervention is set out in the Local Authority Policy on The Use of Physical Intervention and is adopted and reviewed annually by the governing body. It is consistent with the Welsh Government guidance on Safe and effective intervention – use of reasonable force and searching for weapons 097/2013. Any allegation of inappropriate physical intervention involving a child/young person must be reported in line with the guidance in the Vale Glamorgan's Allegations Against Staff Policy. The school will ensure that every physical intervention is appropriately recorded and reported to the Local Authority following their guidance. Records of physical interventions are kept on pupil files and can be made available to parents/carers on request.

## **7. Children with Special Educational Needs**

We recognise that statistically children with behavioural difficulties and disabilities are most vulnerable to abuse. School staff who deal with children with profound and multiple disabilities, sensory impairment and or emotional and behaviour problems need to be particularly sensitive to signs of abuse.