



WOODSEAVES C.E.(C) PRIMARY SCHOOL.

A POLICY FOR CHILD PROTECTION: REVISED 2004

Introduction

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 and young people as part of their general responsibility for pastoral care. Staff hope that parents and children will feel free to talk about any concerns or worries which may affect educational progress and that they will see the school as a safe place if there are any difficulties at home. Children will be taken seriously if they seek help from a member of staff.

"Children in Need" and "Children in Need of Protection"

Parents will normally be consulted and their consent obtained before any referral is made to an agency outside the school under local "children in need" procedures. However, staff cannot guarantee to consult parents first, or to keep children's concerns confidential, if 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 officer. School staff do not, however, carry out investigations into whether children have been abused. That is a matter for the specialist agencies.

Procedures

All staff will be familiar with the school's internal procedures for keeping a confidential written record of any incidents and with the inter-agency recording requirements of the local Area Child Protection Committee. Further information is available on request to the headteacher. Advice may be sought from the Local Education Authority, the Social Services Department or the Police if staff are unsure how to proceed.

Resources

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.

Curriculum

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

Staff issues

Parents can feel confident that careful procedures are in place to ensure that all staff and volunteers are suitable to work with children.

Any use of physical force or restraint against pupils will be carried out and documented in accordance with the relevant guidance and policy. If it is necessary to use physical action 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. Children will not be punished within the school by any form of hitting, slapping, shaking or other degrading treatment.

Any complaints about staff behaviour may be made to the headteacher, or to the Chairperson of the school's *Governors*. All those involved will be entitled to a fair hearing, both children and staff. Complaints which raise child protection issues will be reported under local inter-agency procedures for investigation outside the school.

The designated officer for child protection matters in the school is:
[Mr Gary Whitehall](#).

The designated deputy officer for child protection in the school is:
[Mrs Kate Fenton](#).

The nominated Governor for Child Protection is: [Mrs Thompson](#).

The nominated officer for child protection within the County Council Education Service is Mr. A. Worrall, Deputy Principal Education Officer, Pupil and Student Services, Education Office, Tipping Street, Stafford, ST16 2DH (Tel: 01785 223121 Ext.7965).