






Child Protection Policy For The Federation of Ceiriog Valley Schools

		
<p>Policy Agreed Date: February 2012</p> <p>Review Date: September 2015</p>		
Chair of Governors	Mr Keith Benning	
Child Protection Governor	Mr Keith Benning	
Headteacher	Mrs Olwen Corben	
Staff	Miss C. Rayner Cynddelw Miss L Williams-Llanarmon Mrs S Williams-Pontfadog	

Adopted by the staff and ratified by the Governing Body.

For and on behalf of the Governing Body Keith Benning

Headteacher: Olwen Corben

Date: September 2015
Due for revision: September 2016



Introduction

1.1 Ffederasiwn Dyffryn Ceiriog fully recognises the contribution it makes to child protection.

1.2

There are three main elements of our policy:-

- a. prevention through the teaching and pastoral support offered to pupils;
 - b. procedures of 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; and
 - c. support to pupils who may have been abused.
- 1.3 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. Concerned parents may also contact school governors.

The school recognizes that, as staff are in regular and frequent contact with children, they are particularly well placed to observe signs of abuse or unexplained changes in behaviour or performance, which may be indicative of it. Therefore, the school aims to be diligent in its efforts to look after each child's welfare and well-being.

Prevention

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

The school will therefore:-

- a. establish and maintain an ethos where children feel secure and are encouraged to talk, and are listened to;
- b. ensure children know that there are adults in the school whom they can approach if they are worried or in difficulty;
- c. include in the curriculum, activities and opportunities for PSE which equip children with the skills they need to stay safe from abuse and to know to whom to turn for help; and
- d. 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.

Definition

Child abuse is actual harm to a child aged below 18 years, whether caused by default, or a deliberate act. The harm may be to the standard of health, development or well being which can be reasonably expected for that child. (Definition of Child Abuse AWCPP Revised 2008)

If someone tells you that they or another child or young person is being abused:

- Show that you have heard what he/she is saying, and that you take his/her allegations seriously.
- Encourage the child to talk, but do not prompt or ask leading questions.
- Explain what actions you must take.
- Do not give an undertaking of absolute confidentiality as staff have a responsibility to disclose information to those who need to know.
- Write down what you have been told, using the exact words if possible.
- Make a note of the date, time, place and people who were present at the discussion.
- Report your concerns to your line manager or (if appropriate) the member of staff in your organization with designated responsibility for child protection.
- Do not confront the alleged abuser.

If a child is likely to suffer harm it is essential that urgent action is taken under the child protection procedures. These procedures are outlined in The All Wales Child Protection Procedures and the local protocol is ratified by the LSCB (Booklet-All Wales Child Protection Procedures-Schools-Revised 2008).

Somebody may abuse or neglect a child by inflicting harm, or by failing to act to prevent harm. Children may be abused in a family or in an institutional setting, by those known to them or, more rarely, by a stranger. A child or young person up to the age of 18 years can suffer abuse or neglect and require protection via an inter-agency child protection plan.

Procedures

- 3.1 We will follow the procedures set out in guidance produced by our Local Safeguarding Children Board which are in line with the All Wales Child Protection Procedures.
- 3.2 The school will:-
 - a. ensure it has a designated senior member of staff, who has undertaken the appropriate training provided by the local authority as a minimum;
 - b. recognise the role of the designated person and arrange support and training.
 - c. ensure every member of staff and every governor knows:-
 - the name of the designated person and their role;
 - 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; and

- how to take forward those concerns where the designated person is unavailable.
- d. 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 tell of abuse;
- e. 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;
- f. provide training for all staff so that they know:-
 - i. their personal responsibility;
 - ii. the agreed local procedures;
 - iii. the need to be vigilant in identifying cases of abuse; and
 - iv. how to support a child who tells of abuse.
- g. notify the local social services team if:-
 - it should have to exclude a pupil on the child protection register either for a fixed term or permanently; and
 - 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);
- h. work to develop effective links with relevant agencies and co-operate as required with their enquiries regarding child protection matters including attendance at initial case conferences, core groups and child protection review conferences.
- i. keep written records of concerns about children (noting the date, event and action taken), where there is no need to refer the matter to social services immediately;
- j. ensure all records are kept secure and in locked locations.
- k. adhere to the procedures set out in the Welsh Assembly Government guidance circular⁴⁰ when an allegation is made against a member of staff;
- l. ensure the criminal background of applicants for vacant posts are checked in accordance with Welsh Assembly Government guidance circular "Child Protection: Preventing Unsuitable People from working with Children in the Educational Sector"⁴¹; and
- m. designate a governor for child protection who will oversee the school's child protection policy and practice.

When abuse is alleged or suspected the school will adopt the following procedure

- The designated Child Protection Co-coordinator and/or Headteacher will be **immediately** informed.

- The person informed will refer information to CAFAT, Safeguarding and Support Services, (and inform the Educational Social Worker, and school nurse), on the **same day**
- The person informed will complete Child Protection Form/Common Referral Form and send or fax it to CAFAT – within **24 hours**, or at the earliest opportunity, following consultation with appropriate agencies.
- Take advice from CAFAT before communicating with parents.
- Attend case conferences as requested.

WHERE IT IS ALLEGED ABUSE HAS TAKEN PLACE INVOLVING A MEMBER OF STAFF:

The following procedures will be followed:

- The Headteacher or deputy in her absence should be notified immediately. (If the allegation involves the Headteacher you may have a confidential interview with the named officer for child protection for schools i.e.ESW Team Manager).
- All suspected abuse must be reported to Safeguarding and Support.
- A senior Education Officer will be informed.
- The Chair of Governors will be consulted
- “Agencies must not undertake their own internal enquiries but must refer on as described above. Agencies must not make their own decisions about whether a concern that involves a particular member of their own staff is a disciplinary issue or a child protection issue. Such complex considerations should only take place with the involvement of Social Services and the Police”. All Wales Child Protection Procedures.

Supporting the Pupil at Risk

- 4.1 We recognise that children who are abused or witness violence may find it difficult to develop a sense of self worth and to view the world as benevolent and meaningful. They may feel helplessness, humiliation and some sense of self-blame.
- 4.2 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.
- 4.3 The school will endeavour to support the pupil through:-

- a. the content of the curriculum to encourage self esteem and self motivation (see section 2 on Prevention);
- b. the school ethos which:-
 - i. promotes a positive, supportive and secure environment; and
 - ii. gives pupils a sense of being valued (see section 2 on Prevention);
- c. 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;
- d. liaison with other agencies who support the student such as Social Services, Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services, and Educational Psychology Service, Behaviour Support Services and Education Welfare Service; and
- e. keeping records and notifying Social Services as soon as there is a recurrence of a concern;

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

Bullying

4.5 Our policy on bullying is set out in (a separate document / the school's behaviour policy) and is reviewed annually by the governing body.

Physical Intervention

4.6 Our policy on physical intervention is set out in (a separate document) and is reviewed annually by the governing body.

Children with Statements of Additional Needs

4.7 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, cerebral palsy, sensory impairment and or emotional and behaviour problems will be particularly sensitive to signs of abuse.

Role of the Child Protection Co-coordinator:

General Consideration:

Child Protection is a serious issue, particularly those who may be victims, potential victims or involved in support. Frequently situations do not appear 'black or white' and a tension often exists between agencies.

It would seem essential therefore, that the person nominated or appointed should have:

- a. A clear understanding of the importance of Child Protection and the role of the school.
- b. The ability to communicate effectively with other agencies and the ability to appreciate all relevant perspectives.
- c. The ability to relate well to pupils parents and colleagues in order to gain their confidence.
- d. Sufficient seniority or recognition within the school in order to act on behalf of the school and in some instances brings about change if required.
- e. A willingness to develop awareness of Child Protection, particularly through training and obtaining information available in existing and future circulars.

Specifically:

The role of the coordinator would include:

1. Ensuring that all members of staff are aware of the appropriate Child Protection Procedures and who the designated teacher is. This is particularly important for new staff.
2. Ensuring that the proper procedures are followed.
3. Liaison with other agencies over cases of alleged abuse and the promotion of cooperative working including attendance at Case Conferences.
4. Ensuring that the designated Senior LEA Officer is aware of any breakdown in communication or problems with the implementation of local procedures.
5. Maintaining appropriate records regarding cases which cause concern and subsequent action taken.
6. Ensuring that ongoing monitoring exists for pupils having been the subject of child abuse concerns and/or, placed on the Child Protection Register and made the subject of a plan involving their school or facilities.

Neglect

The school is always aware of the possibility of a child suffering neglect. When concerns are raised regarding neglect, the 'Neglect Practice Guidelines' and monitoring form will be implemented. (See appendix 2).

Training

All Staff and governors have the opportunity to receive Child Protection training provided by Wrexham County Borough Council. New and temporary staff are informed of the School's

Child Protection procedures by the Headteacher and formal training is provided during the next cycle of events led by Wrexham CBC.

Pupil Perspective

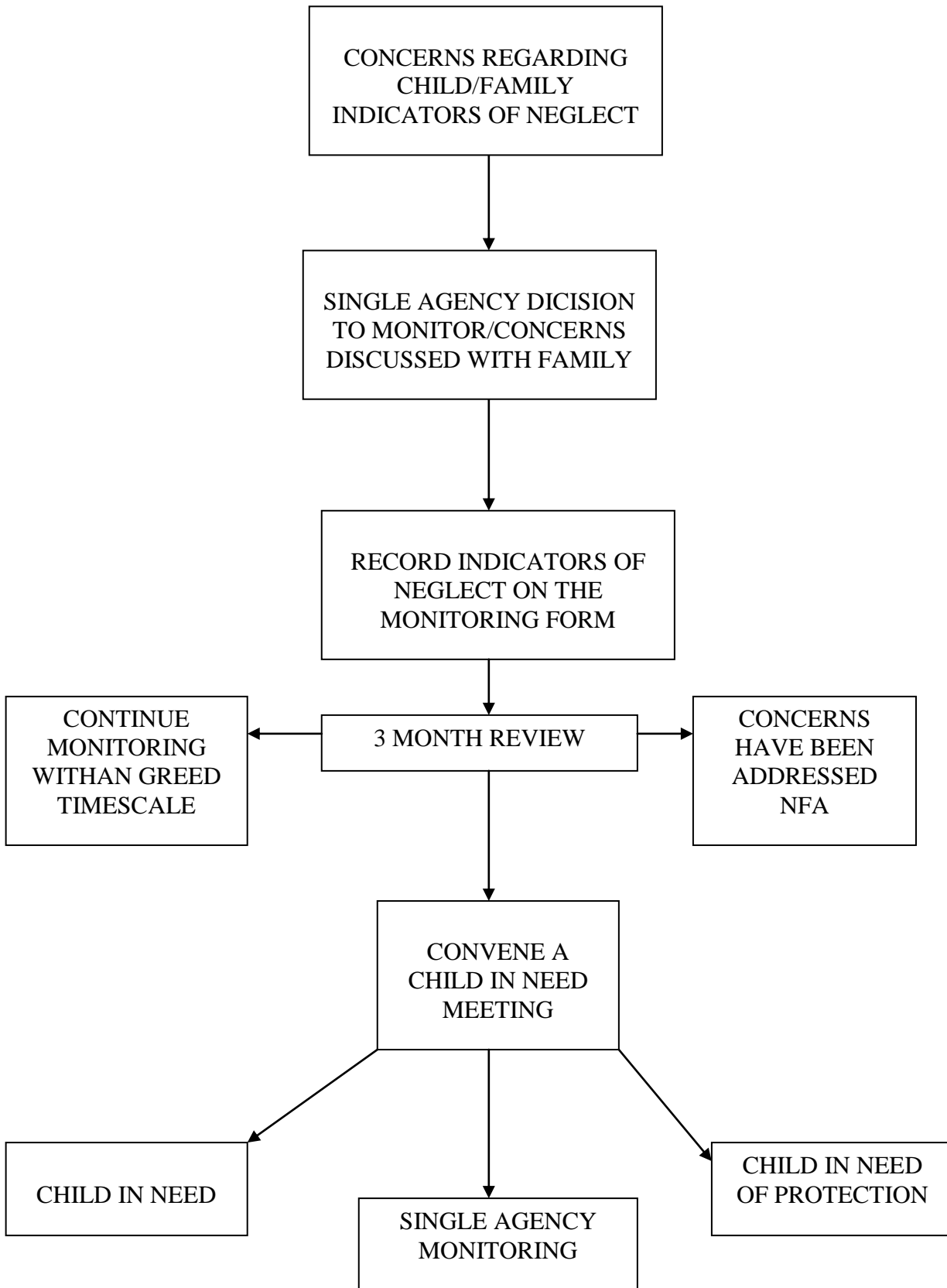
A working group of 13 pupils in years 5 and 6 produced the following document;

As a pupil at Ffederasiwn Dyffryn Ceiriog we feel that;

Teachers always try to make sure that everyone is treated nicely. We feel everyone should be treated the same. We try to make sure everyone is protected.

Children should tell the teachers if they think someone isn't protected

	PHYSICAL SIGNS	BEHAVIOUR SIGNS
Physical neglect/ Emotional Abuse	Neglected appearance. Often left unattended/abandoned. Unattended health/medical needs. Failure to thrive/gain weight. Consistent hunger. Poor hygiene.	Delayed development. Lethargic, tired, falls asleep. Often absent or late to school. Self-destructive. Hopelessness. Desperate attention seeker. Steals food.
Physical Abuse	Unexplained or frequent trauma, such as <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Fractures, grazes, cuts ▪ Injuries of different ages ▪ Burns, cigarette or immersion ▪ Minor injuries, bruises especially to eyes or mouth Heavy punishment, eg severe bruises, multiple weals, hand-shaped marks.	Delay seeking medical advice. Hyper-critical/rigid parents. Chronic runaway. Afraid of going home. Unexplained or regular absences. Wary of physical contact. Complains of soreness. Behavioural extremes – withdrawn, wary or aggressive/disruptive.
Sexual Abuse	Sleep and eating disturbances. Medical problems, eg pain, itching, urinary infection, venereal disease. Pregnant. Sexual knowledge or curiosity or behaviour beyond child's years. Underclothes – torn, stained, bloody. Difficulty in walking or sitting – genital injuries	Reports abuse. Fear of particular individuals. Sudden change in personality or school performance or self-esteem. Aggression or unruly behaviour. Truancy. Depressed, withdrawn, sad, listless, self-injury, suicide attempts, overdoses, running away. Guilt, shame, anger.
<p>The above signs do not always indicate child abuse, but the possibility should be considered.</p> <p><i>If in doubt, share your concern without delay.</i></p>		



SHOULD THERE BE CONCERNS OF A CHILD PROTECTION NATURE THROUGHOUT THIS PROCESS CHILD PROTECTION PROCEDURES SHOULD BE FOLLO



FFEDERASIWN DYFFRYN CEIRIOG

CEIRIOG VALLEY FEDERATION

INCIDENT MONITORING FORM – ONLY FACTUAL INFORMATION TO BE RECORDED

NAME:

DOB:

ADDRESS:

DATE	INCIDENTS OF CONCERN/ POSITIVE EVENTS	PARENT RESPONSE CHILD'S COMMENTS	ACTION TAKEN	NAME AND SIGNATURE

The role of the governing body

A governing body should:

- Have a child protection policy and procedures in place that are in accordance with local authority (LA) guidance and locally agreed inter-agency procedures, and the policy is made available to parents on request
- Operate safe recruitment procedures and make sure that all appropriate checks are carried out on new staff and volunteers who will work with children, including Criminal Record Bureau and List 99 checks
- Have procedures for dealing with allegations of abuse against members of staff and volunteers that comply with guidance from the LA and locally agreed inter-agency procedures
- Have a senior member of the school's leadership team who is designated to take lead responsibility for dealing with child protection issues, providing advice and support to other staff, liaising with the LA, and working with other agencies
- Ensure the head teacher, and all other staff who work with children undertake appropriate training to equip them to carry out their responsibilities for child protection effectively, that is kept up to date by refresher training at 3 yearly intervals, and that temporary staff and volunteers who work with children are made aware of the school's arrangements for child protection and their responsibilities
- Remedy any deficiencies or weaknesses in regard to child protection arrangements that are brought to its attention without delay
- Ensure that a member of the governing body (usually the Chair) is nominated to be responsible for liaising with the LA and /or partner agencies, as appropriate in the event of allegations of abuse being made against the head teacher
- Review its policies and procedures annually and provides information to the LA about them and about how the above duties have been discharged
- Recognise the contribution the school can make to helping children keep safe through the teaching of self protection skills and encouragement of responsible attitudes to adult life through the Personal, Social and Health Education/Citizenship curriculum
- Ensure that there are safe and effective recruitment policies and disciplinary procedures in place which adhere to The Education (Prohibition from Teaching or Working with Children) Regulations 2003.

PUPIL VOICE

A working group of 13 pupils in years 5 and 6 produced the following statement

As a pupil at Ceiriog Valley Federation we feel that;

Teachers always try to make sure that everyone is treated nicely. We feel everyone should be treated the same. We try to make sure everyone is protected.
Children should tell the teachers if they think someone isn't protected.

Position	Year	Signed	Printed	Date
School Councillor				
Eco Councillor				