



Shapla Child Protection Policy

School Name: Shapla Primary School

Date policy was approved: October 2011

Designated Child Protection Persons:

Tim Barnes:	Headteacher	Training: 13.10.2011
Anna Burt:	Deputy Headteacher	Training: 13.10.2009

Named Governor: Jill Hankey

Review date: October 2012

Introduction

The safety and security of our pupils is our highest priority. Our aim is to create an environment where pupils feel safe, secure, valued and listened to and are taken seriously at all times.

Shapla Primary School is a multi-racial and multi-cultural community. We recognise and respect the differing values and beliefs that may occur in the differing ethnic communities.

We believe in the importance of good communication with parents. Our aim is to be able to support parents so that children are having the best care possible. Our Family Support Worker plays an important role in helping and advising parents.

Aims of the Policy

- Ensure that all pupils have access to appropriate support available within Child Protection
- To raise awareness of Child Protection issues for all staff and members of the school community
- To raise awareness of Child Protection issues amongst parents and to be open and supportive to parents about these issues.
- To ensure that systems and strategies for dealing with Child Protection issues are made clear to all members of the school community.
- To produce guidance on the use of the curriculum to promote self awareness and personal safety issues.

Statutory Framework

The Children Act 1989 provides the legal framework for the protection of children in the UK.

Working Together to Safeguard Children 1989 sets out how all agencies and professionals should work together to promote children's welfare and protect them from abuse and neglect and



Shapla Child Protection Policy

requires all schools to follow the procedures for protecting children from abuse which are developed by the Area Child Protection Committee.

Abuse and neglect is defined as “inflicting harm, or by failing to act to prevent harm”. Abusive behaviour is categorised as physical abuse, emotional abuse, sexual abuse or neglect. These acts make it clear that schools do not have statutory powers to undertake child protection investigations and therefore have a duty to refer cases to an agency with statutory powers, normally Social Services.

Roles and Responsibility of School regarding Child Protection

- Staff should be alert to signs of abuse and know to whom they should report any concerns or suspicions
- A designated school child protection officer should have responsibility for coordinating action within the school and for liaising with other agencies
- Staff with designated responsibility for child protection should receive appropriate training
- School should be aware of and follow the procedures established by the Area Child Protection Committee
- School should have procedures of which all staff are aware, for handling suspected cases of abuse of pupils, including procedures to be followed if a member of staff is accused of abuse
- Parents should be made aware of the school’s child protection policy
- Curriculum

Roles of the Designated School Child Protection Officer

- Ensure that the Area Child Protection Committee’s procedures are followed in the school
- Ensure that all staff are aware of these procedures
- Ensure that appropriate training and support is provide to all staff
- Maintain effective working relationships with other agencies and services
- Decide whether to take further action about specific concerns
- Liaise with Social Services over suspected cases of child abuse
- Ensure that records relating to individual children are made and kept in a secure place
- Submit reports to, and attend, Child Protection Conferences
- Ensure that the school effectively monitors children who have been identified as at risk
- Provide guidance to parents, children and staff about obtaining suitable support

School Procedures

- These procedures should be followed by any member of staff who suspects or has evidence of abuse of a child, or is concerned about the ability of the carers to provide for the child’s protection, safety or well being
- Concerns about a child should be reported to the designated Child Protection person:
Tim Barnes
Anna Burt



Shapla Child Protection Policy

- The designated Child Protection person needs to decide if there is a cause for concern and if so should inform either the Duty Officer at Social Services or the duty Educational Social Worker
- The designated Child Protection person will seek advice from the Duty Line which may advise not to speak to parents.
- Records should be kept of all reported incidents
- Education staff should be encouraged to raise concerns if they feel inappropriate or insufficient action has been taken
- If a child makes a direct allegation of abuse or if there appears to be a more serious injury this should not be discussed with parents unless advice has been sought from an investigative agency
- If a minor injury or other less serious concern is noted or if the parent makes a reference to minor physical punishment, teaching staff should raise this with parents where possible
- Any suspicion of sexual abuse or actual disclosure by a child that he or she has been sexually abused, must be reported immediately to Social Services or the Duty Educational Social Worker
- If a child Protection conference is called following an investigation it is essential that the school is represented by someone who has knowledge of the child. The school should also provide a written report to the conference
- It is particularly important to keep a careful watch on the attendance and well-being of any children that are placed on the Child Protection Register

Allegations Involving School Staff

If a child or parent makes a complaint of abuse against a member of staff, the person receiving the complaint must take it seriously and immediately inform the Headteacher.

Any member of staff who has reason to suspect that a pupil may have been abused by a member of staff must immediately inform the Headteacher.

The Headteacher will not investigate the allegation itself but will assess whether it is necessary to refer to Social Services team in accordance with Child Protection procedures.

Child Protection Issues and the Curriculum

Child Protection issues are covered within the PHSEE curriculum (Keeping Safe). The PHSEE curriculum is designed to help develop self esteem and positive self-image. Children learn skills for keeping healthy and safe and how to speak up if they have worries or concerns. They learnt the difference between right and wrong and how to be able to take responsibility for themselves and their actions. Internet safety is also covered through:

- ICT policy (Sept 2009)
- School website policy (Sept 2009)
- Safer Care Code of Conduct policy (Sept 2011)

Staff Guidelines



Shapla Child Protection Policy

All staff are expected to be aware of, and follow, the school policy. They should pass on any concerns that they might have to the designated teacher.

Staff should be aware of the kinds of behaviour towards children that are abusive and the possible signs and symptoms which might indicate that a child is experiencing abusive behaviour. These might include:

- An unusual injury
- Regular unexplained injuries
- Frequent injuries even when apparently reasonable explanations are given
- When confused or conflicting explanations are given about how injuries were sustained.
- Significant changes in behaviour, performance or attitude
- Sexual behaviour which is unusually explicit or inappropriate for the age of the child

Dealing with a disclosure

If a pupil discloses that he or she has been abused in some way, the member of staff should

- Listen to what is being said without displaying shock or disbelief
- Allow the child to talk freely
- Be open to listening rather than questioning children
- Ask open questions rather closed questions
- Reassure the child but not make promises which it might not be possible to keep
- Not promise confidentiality
- Reassure the child that what has happened is not their fault
- Stress that it was the right thing to tell
- Explain what needs to be done next
- Keep confidentiality within a need to know

Record Keeping

It is important to keep written records of any concerns or disclosures. Notes should be made as soon as possible after any disclosure so that the notes are as accurate as possible. It is helpful to put down the words used by the child. It is important to record statements and observations rather than interpretations or assumptions.

This document was created with Win2PDF available at <http://www.win2pdf.com>.
The unregistered version of Win2PDF is for evaluation or non-commercial use only.
This page will not be added after purchasing Win2PDF.