

# Penyrheol Comprehensive School



## Child Protection Policy



# Child Protection Policy

This document should be read in conjunction with:

- The All Wales Child Protection Procedures (2008).
- Code of Practice for Staff.
- Staff Facing an Allegation of Abuse.
- The Framework for the Assessment of Children in Need and their Families 2002.

**T**he staff and governors of this school fully recognise the contribution it makes to safeguarding children; the welfare of all pupils in this school is a priority. We believe that our school should provide a caring, supportive and safe environment which promotes the social, physical and moral development of each child by the provision of a curriculum and ethos which promotes self worth, confidence and independence. No child can learn effectively and reach their potential unless they feel secure.

**P**enyrheol Comprehensive School follows the Child Protection Policy for schools issued by the City and County of Swansea. The latest version was produced in March 2011.

## **The aims of this policy are:**

- To ensure that all pupils know that they will be listened to and have the means to communicate any concerns which they may have;
- To raise the awareness of all teaching staff, associate staff, Governors and volunteers in the school to the need to safeguard pupils by identifying children in need and possible cases of child abuse;
- To emphasise the need for staff in this school to work in partnership with other relevant agencies (particularly Social Services Department and the police) and to support them in carrying out their statutory duties;
- To ensure that staff are clear about their individual responsibilities for reporting concerns and understand reporting procedures;
- To ensure that the school and Governing Body practise safe recruitment in checking the suitability of staff and volunteers working with pupils;
- To provide a systematic means of monitoring children known or thought to be at risk of harm.

# The Designated Teacher for Child Protection

In this school the Deputy Headteacher (Pupils), Mrs. J. M. Tanner is the Designated Teacher. In her absence, the Headteacher will assume responsibility for making urgent referrals.

We will ensure that all staff/volunteers are aware of who the Designated Teacher is.

## **The role of the Designated Teacher is:**

- The co-ordination of all child protection issues, acting as a source of advice and support for any staff who have concerns or information that pupils may be suffering abuse or be a child in need;
- To be responsible for making referrals to Social Services;
- To ensure that the school is represented at case conferences and core meetings and contributes fully by providing reports as required;
- To attend training on a regular basis and cascade training to staff;
- To ensure that all staff (including new staff/supply teachers) have access to all the relevant child protection documentation, are clear about their own responsibilities and are in possession of a valid and current CRB certificate;
- To report any allegation about a member of staff/volunteer to the Local Education Authority's Child Protection Co-ordinator;
- To ensure that a chronological record of concerns is made if there are concerns about a child even if there is no need to make an immediate referral;
- To attend any Senior Strategy Meetings;
- To ensure that all records including case conference minutes are kept confidentially and securely (separate from pupil records);
- To send the child's records, including all child protection information, immediately to any school to which the child transfers.





## Governor for Child Protection

The nominated link Governor for Child Protection is Mr. Jeff Bowen, Chair of Governors and in his absence, Councillor Christine Richards, Vice Chair.

### **Their role is to ensure:**

- that our school has a child protection policy in place which is reviewed annually to ensure its effectiveness;
- that the Designated Teacher and other staff attend appropriate and regular training;
- that the school has an up to date and agreed staff disciplinary procedure for dealing with allegations of misconduct against members of staff including Child Protection allegations;
- that the school operates safe recruitment procedures and ensures that all appropriate checks are carried out on all relevant staff in accordance with current regulations;
- that there is an item on the agenda of the governing body at least once a year to report on
  - changes to child protection procedures or policy
  - training undertaken by the Child Protection Co-ordinator
  - training undertaken by the Designated Governor and other staff
  - the number of incidents/cases (without details or names)
  - where and how child protection appears in the curriculum
- that any allegation made against the Headteacher should immediately be reported to Mr. Jeff Bowen who will then contact the Local Authority's Child Protection Co-ordinator immediately and attend any Senior Strategy Meeting which is called.

## Action to Be Taken By Our School

- We will attend relevant training on child protection on a regular basis.
  - We will follow the All Wales Child Protection Procedures.
- All staff will inform the Designated Teacher of any concerns that a pupil is suffering or is likely to suffer abuse or of any disclosure of abuse.
- Referrals will be made immediately to Social Services by telephone and followed up within two working days in writing using the Common Assessment and Referral Form.

- Any child on the child protection register absent without explanation will be referred to Social Services and the Education Welfare Officer.
- All staff will inform the Designated Teacher of any allegations made against staff / volunteers in the school.
- We will endeavour to build relations of understanding, trust and confidence with other agencies in order to ensure the best possible outcomes for children.

## Prevention

- The school has an important role in preventing abuse by providing our pupils with good lines of communications with trusted adults within a safe environment.
- Our school encourages children to talk and to be listened to.
- Our school ensures all children know there is someone in school who they can approach if they are worried or in difficulty.
- Our school will include opportunities within the PSE curriculum for pupils to explore issues to help them develop the skills to stay safe from harm and to know to whom they can turn for help.

## The Statutory Basis of Child Protection

- Children Act 1989
- The Children Act 2004
- Welsh Assembly Government Circular 005/2008 – Safeguarding Children in Education

**T**he Governing Body has a duty under section 175 of the Education Act 2002 to ensure “that their functions relating to the conduct of the school are exercised with a view to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children...”

