



Holy Cross

CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL

Child Protection Policy

Rationale

We are a Catholic community where every person is valued. We recognise each pupil as made in the image of God, all with different gifts and qualities. Christ is at the heart of our school and we promote a community where all pupils can be safe, be themselves, be proud of who they are, be happy and make our community a better place. This policy reflects our mission to Love God, Work Hard and Be Kind.

The School Mission Statement makes the care and respect of other people a central point of the life of our school. Therefore, all members of the school community must be provided with the proper protection to enable them to develop fully as human beings *“I have come that they may have life and have it to the full”*

Purposes

- to provide staff with a clear understanding of responsibilities
- to ensure all children are clear how the school will deal with any cases of abuse
- to develop in children an understanding of one's actions on other people and an awareness to take responsibility for one's actions
- to ensure cases of abuse are dealt with in accordance with the procedures as laid down in the document produced by Lancashire Safeguarding Children Board (LSCB) (2011) and Document A1 in the CP Information Pack – *‘Handling Concerns About Welfare or Safety of a Child in School’*

Guidelines

- Child Protection Procedures laid down under the Children Act 1989 & 2004. Working together to Safeguard Children 2010. LSCB Safeguarding Children Procedures
- where it is believed that a pupil is suffering from, or is at risk of significant harm, we will follow the procedures set out in the document produced by LSCB
- the School's Designated Senior Person is Mr P Morris
- the Local Authority's School Safeguarding coordinator, Paul McIntyre and officer, Mary Aurens will advise and guide on individual case issues
- information will be shared with the teachers on a need to know basis and all records will be kept and maintained by the Headteacher
- the curriculum, particularly PSE and RE, will be used to address issues of abuse. The Designated Senior Person has received training from the LEA which will be updated as and when needed. The Headteacher will ensure staff are trained, and Governors made aware of Child Protection procedures and issues
- children are defined as suffering abuse if they fulfil the conditions of physical, sexual or emotional abuse or neglect as defined by the NSPCC

Responsibilities

Adults in school have the following responsibilities:

- listening to children who approach them with a problem
- being alert for signs of abuse
- reporting concerns to the DSP
- monitoring and keeping relevant records at the request of the Headteacher

Confidentiality

- it is important that matters concerning Child Abuse and Protection are treated confidentially with regard to the individual child. Children who are being monitored will be identified to staff responsible for their supervision although specific details of their case will usually be restricted to the Headteacher, Designated Senior Person and Class Teacher
- records on individual children concerning child abuse will be kept separately from the child's record of progress
- in cases of abuse, where the child remains in school, it will be the Headteacher's responsibility to maintain a relationship with parents which serves the best interests of the child
- the Designated Senior Person has attended the training courses for the implementation of Child Protection Procedures and additional follow up and refresher training
- governors will be kept informed of procedures for ensuring child protection procedures in school but will have no access to individual names or records

Definitions of Child Abuse

- Physical Abuse: Where a child is physically hurt. It can involve hitting, shaking, squeezing, burning and biting. It also involves giving a child poisonous substances, inappropriate drugs and alcohol. Physical abuse can leave signs – look out for children with frequent bruising, burns, fractures and cuts – all without reasonable explanation of cause
- Sexual Abuse: When children are exploited sexually by adults who use them to meet their own sexual needs. It includes sexual intercourse, fondling, masturbation, oral sex and exposing children to pornographic materials. Children who have been sexually abused often become depressed and withdrawn, they display unusually aggressive behaviour, may have eating problems and relationships with adults that exclude others. They may display over sexualized behaviour inappropriate for their age
- Neglect: Where parents fail to meet basic essential needs of their children – like food clothes warmth and medical care. Leaving children alone is another form of neglect. Children who have been neglected suffer a number of difficulties, they may seem unusually withdrawn and miserable, they may be over-aggressive, have eating and nutrition problems and may be dirty and smelly.
- Emotional Abuse: Where a child consistently faces a lack of love and affection, or is continually threatened by verbal attacks, taunting and shouting. Children who have been emotionally abused may seem sad, cry a lot and display apathetic or aggressive behaviour. They may well have a lack of confidence and low self-esteem.

Source: NSPCC – Protecting Children – A Guide for Teachers on Child Abuse

Designated Senior Teacher for Child Protection Role Description

At Holy Cross the Designated Senior Person for Child Protection is Mr P Morris and is responsible for:

- liaising with all staff with regard to child protection issues
- liaising with other relevant agencies (LEA, Social Services, External Agencies, Police etc)
- having an oversight of curricular provision in connection with Child Protection
- ensuring appropriate training, development and support for all staff
- acting as contact point for Child Protection issues
- passing on information when children transfer to other schools
- informing the custodian of the Child Protection Register if a child leaves the authority
- ensuring Governors are kept informed of procedures in place in school with regard to Child Protection

- ensuring confidentiality of Child Protection files
- ensuring that files of students are kept up to date
- keeping up to date with new legislation on child Protection

Child Protection Procedures

Designated Senior Person- P Morris (Assistant Headteacher)

The 'back up' DSL is M Hardman/L Walmsley

Abuse – Neglect/Physical Injury/Sexual Abuse/Emotional Abuse

Children's Social Care Contact Number – 0845 0530009

Emergency Duty Team (Out of Hours) – 0845 6021043

Conclusion

- the policy will be reviewed annually at the start of the school year
- in all cases of suspected abuse, staff must follow the action plan below

TAKING ACTION ON CHILD WELFARE/PROTECTION CONCERNS IN SCHOOL

