



WEST KIRBY GRAMMAR SCHOOL

CHILD PROTECTION POLICY

This policy was adopted by the Governing Body in **September 2017**

This policy is due for review in **September 2018**

The school aims to provide a caring and secure environment in which all students can develop their full potential. Self esteem and self worth play vital roles in development and we as a school aim to promote these qualities.

It is understood that a child who is suffering from any sort of abuse, whether it be physical, sexual or emotional, including neglect, will be adversely affected, although the symptoms of such abuse may be shown in different ways.

It is also understood that any person who has knowledge or suspicion that a child has been abused or is at risk of abuse has a duty to refer their concerns to one of the agencies with statutory authority to investigate, ie Social Services Department or the Police. (The procedure for this is outlined below).

Teachers in day to day contact with children are particularly well placed to observe outward signs of possible abuse (e.g. changes in behaviour or failure to develop). Staff should be alert to these signs and in addition should listen carefully and take seriously any comments a child makes about possible abuse.

An allegation is where there is a direct statement by an individual that abuse has taken place.

A suspicion is where there are behavioural, emotional or physical factors or symptoms which indicate that child abuse may have taken place.

In every school a member of staff is designated as child protection co-ordinator for that school and will liaise with the Social Services Department and other agencies as appropriate. In this school the Assistant Headteacher (Mrs K Cliffe) is the Designated Senior Lead for Child Protection, with the Headteacher deputising for her.

The procedures which must be followed in cases of alleged or suspected child abuse are described below.

Procedures in the event of a suspicion or allegation

- a) In the case of suspicion of physical, sexual or emotional abuse, including neglect, make a careful note of the signs giving rise to suspicion and inform the Head of Year of your concerns (or Mrs K Cliffe, Assistant Headteacher, or the Headteacher).

Last reviewed September 2017

Approved by Governors: September 2017

Date of next review: September 2018

The Headteacher will be informed of the situation and the concern will be monitored.

- b) In the case of an allegation of abuse being made, the child alleging abuse should be taken very seriously and reassured that it was right to tell. The child should be taken care of. The Assistant Headteacher (Mrs K Cliffe) must be informed immediately (or in her absence the Headteacher).

The Assistant Headteacher (or Headteacher) will inform Social Services. If, in exceptional circumstances, the Assistant Headteacher, Headteacher or another senior member of staff is not available and cannot be contacted, staff should make contact with the Central Advice & Duty Team (Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub), telephone number 0151 606 2008, or the Emergency Duty Team 0151 677 6557 or the police.

The school's child protection co-ordinator (Assistant Headteacher, Mrs K Cliffe) should be informed at the earliest possible opportunity

NB

1. The Assistant Headteacher is the Designated Senior Lead for Child Protection.
2. Throughout these procedures the term "child" is used to indicate a child or young person under 18 years of age.
3. If you are in doubt about what to do in particular circumstances, but think a child may be at risk, you must discuss the matter with the Assistant Headteacher (or Headteacher).