

# **DOWSON PRIMARY SCHOOL**

## **Child Protection Policy**

**2015**



# Dowson Primary School

## Child Protection Policy

### Policy Issue Record

Issue 1 November 2011

Issue 2 November 2012

Issue 3 October 2013

Issue 4 October 2105

Reviewed September 2015

# Dowson Primary School

## Child Protection Policy

Dowson Primary School fully recognises its responsibilities for child protection. Our policy applies to all staff, governors and volunteers working in the school. There are five main elements to our policy:

- Ensuring we practice safe recruitment in checking the suitability of staff and volunteers to work with children.
- Raising awareness of child protection issues and equipping children with the skills needed to keep them safe.
- Ensuring that all staff are aware of the procedures for identifying and reporting cases, or suspected cases of abuse. These procedures are outlined by Tameside Safeguarding Board in line with Great Manchester Safeguarding and National Guidance that applies to all staff working within the Local Authority.
- Supporting pupils who have been abused in accordance with his/her agreed child protection plan.
- Establishing a safe environment in which children can learn and develop.

We recognise that because of the day to day contact with children, school staff, are well placed to observe the outward signs of abuse. The school will therefore:

- Establish and maintain an environment where children feel secure, are encouraged to talk, and are listened to.
- Ensure children know that there are adults in the school whom they can approach if they are worried.
- Include opportunities in the PSHE curriculum for children to develop the skills they need to recognise and stay safe from abuse.

We will follow the procedures set out by the Local Safeguarding Children Board, contained in Child Protection-Essential Guidance for all staff working within the Local Authority and take account of guidance issued by the DoE to:

- Ensure we have a designated Child Protection Liaison Person who has received appropriate training and support for this role. They will attend a minimum of 1 Child protection course per year and the Child Protection Networks

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- Ensure we have a designated teacher for Child Protection who has received appropriate training and support for this role. This is updated every three years as a minimum.
- Ensure we have a nominated governor responsible for child protection and that the Governing Body receives training every three years as a minimum.
- Ensure whole school basic awareness training is provided every three years
- Ensure that all new staff have basic awareness training included in their induction training
- Ensure every member of staff,(including temporary and supply staff) volunteers and governors knows the name of the designated teacher responsible for child protection and their role and the name of the Child Protection Liaison Person and their role.
- Ensure all staff and volunteers understand their responsibilities in being alert to the signs of abuse and responsibility for referring any concerns to the designated teacher/Child Protection Liaison Person responsible for child protection.
- 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 prospectus.
- Where another agency provides services within the grounds of this school, assurance will be sought that the agency concerned has appropriate policies and procedures in place for safeguarding and child protection.
- Notify Children's Services if there is an unexplained absence of more than two days of a pupil who is on the child protection register.
- Develop effective links with relevant agencies and co-operate as required with their enquiries regarding child protection matters including attendance at case conferences or core groups.
- Keep written records of concerns about children, even where there is no need to refer the matter immediately.
- Ensure all records are kept securely separate from the main pupil file, and in locked locations.
- Follow procedures contained in Essential Guidance for Staff where an allegation is made against a member of staff or volunteer.
- Ensure safe recruitment practices are always followed.
- Ensure Child Protection and Safeguarding arrangements are in place for pupils not on the premises e.g. school visits

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We recognise that children who are abused or witness violence may find it difficult to develop a sense of self worth. They may feel helplessness, humiliation and some sense of blame. The school may be the only stable, secure and predictable element in the lives of children at risk. When at school their behaviour may be challenging and defiant or they may be withdrawn. The school will endeavour to support the pupil through:

- The content of the curriculum.
- The school ethos which promotes a positive, supportive and secure environment and gives pupils a sense of being valued.
- The school behaviour policy which is aimed at supporting vulnerable pupils in the school. The school will ensure that the pupil knows that some behaviour is unacceptable but they are valued and not to be blamed for any abuse which has occurred.
- Liaison with other agencies that support the pupil such as Children's Social Care, Child and Adult Mental Health Service, Education Welfare Service and Educational Psychology Service.
- Ensuring that, where a pupil on the Child Protection Register leaves school, their information is transferred to the new school immediately and that the child's social worker is informed.

At Dowson Primary School the designated Child Protection Teacher is:

Janet Rathburn - Head Teacher

The nominated Governor is Paul Houghton- Chair

The Child Protection Liaison Person(s):

Michelle Ashley - Inclusion Co-ordinator

and Melanie Bradley - Learning Mentor

Other Designated Teachers who have received TSCB specific Child Protection training are:

Kathryn Thornburn - Deputy Head

Jenny Garside - SENCO

Clare Lawrence -Assistant Head Upper School

Mandy Taylor -Assistant Head Lower School

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Harriet Hanson - Leader of Learning in FSU

All staff know that if they have any concerns about a child's safety they must approach the Head teacher or the Child Protection Liaison Person or the designated Child Protection Teachers. Any cause for concern will be recorded on a 'Cause for Concern' form and this will be the start of the proceedings to investigate the concerns raised.

Any parent, carer or concerned citizen can approach the school or the local Safeguarding Team directly if they have a concern for a child. If an adult wishes their concerns to remain anonymous they are advised to directly contact Tameside Safeguarding Board or the Public Service Hub. You can also do this online. If a concern is brought to school it will be investigated and/or referred and the source of disclosure would need to be shared with the authority.

If a parent or carer has a concern with regards to a member of staff or volunteer they must inform the Head Teacher directly and immediately. Concerns can also be raised with the named Governor and the Local Authority Designated Officer/Schools Safeguarding lead - who is accessible through the council and TSCB website and by telephone.

Recent national and local concerns have been addressed in recent legislation that aims to raise awareness, support and action around topics such as

Female Genital Mutilation

Child Sexual Exploitation

PREVENT - radicalisation and terrorism

FGM is an emerging concern that school is seeking further training in order to raise staff awareness. It is ensured during SRE lessons in Year 6, that girls are made aware of their right to protect their own bodies and will be given information on safe adults who they can raise any concerns around FGM, forced marriage or honour based violence.

School has attended CSE training and this has been delivered to all staff, children are educated about CSE through Sex and Relationship Education, PSHE lessons, Online Safety Lessons/ICT and at Crucial Crew and through the bi-annual Childline presentations and lessons. School delivers

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lessons based on the NSPCC Underpants campaign for our younger children and Barnado's Real Love Rocks for the older pupils.

If anyone suspects CSE activity they can refer to TSCB, Children's Social Care and also to the police. School has also been advised they can pass on any intelligence received or suspicious activity to the police for further investigation.

PREVENT policy introduced in July 2015 places a legal and moral responsibility on schools to educate pupils and build resilience in order to prevent them being radicalised and supporting terrorism. It also states clearly that if a child is thought as vulnerable or at risk, school will report this to the local safeguarding authorities, the police and parents would be informed. The child will be supported by both school and the necessary agencies that are available in the local area. School have a legal obligation to pass on any concerns to the police. Children at Dowson have regular PSHE lessons during Circle Time aimed at developing respect for self and others, accepting differences, building resilience and a sense of right and wrong. As the children move through Upper School the lessons will also include British Values which will allow the children to discuss current issues in world news and historical events that can help them understand the dangers of intolerance and protect themselves now and in the future.

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This policy will be reviewed and updated on an annual basis and complements the following policies:

Safeguarding

Behaviour and Discipline

Health and Safety

Medical

Wellbeing

Author Michelle Ashley

Chair of Governors

Signed:

Name:

Head Teacher

Date:

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