

Safeguarding Policy

Reviewed Autumn 2017

Strong Close Nursery School & Children's Centre fully recognises its responsibilities for child protection.

This policy applies to all staff, governors and volunteers working in the setting.

There are five main elements to the policy:

- Ensuring we practise 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
- Developing and then implementing procedures for identifying and reporting all cases, or suspected cases, of abuse, including female genital mutilation
- Supporting children who have been abused in accordance with his/her agreed 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, staff are well placed to observe the outward signs of abuse.

The centre will therefore:

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

We will follow the procedures set out by the Bradford Safeguarding Children Board and take account of guidance issued by the Department for Education (DfE)-

“Working Together to Safeguard Children” (March 2015 updated February 2017),

“Keeping Children Safe in Education” (March 2015 updated September 2016) and

Revised prevent Duty for England and Wales (Home Office March 2015 updated March 2016) We;

- Ensure we have a designated teacher for child protection who has received appropriate training and support for this role
- Ensure we have a nominated governor with responsibility for child protection
- Ensure every member of staff, volunteer and governor knows the name of the designated teacher responsible for child protection 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 responsible for child protection
- Ensure that parents have an understanding of the responsibility placed on the centre staff for child protection by setting out its obligations in the school prospectus
- Notify social services if there is an unexplained absence of more than two days of a child 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
- Keep written records of concerns about children, even where there is no need to refer the matter immediately to Social Services
- Ensure all records are kept securely, separate from the main pupil file, and in locked locations
- Ensure all staff are aware of the documents listed above.
- Ensure Child Protection/Safeguarding training is provided for all staff on induction and on an annual basis and that training for Designated Persons is undertaken every 2 years
- Follow Bradford Safeguarding Children Board procedures where an allegation is made against a member of staff or volunteer
- Ensure safe recruitment practices are followed
- Ensure that where services or activities are provided separately by another body using the school premises, the Governing Body will seek assurance that the body concerned has appropriate policies and procedures in place in regard to safeguarding children and child protection

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 setting may be the only stable, secure and predictable element in the lives of children at risk. When at the setting their behaviour may be challenging and defiant or they may be withdrawn. The setting will endeavour to support the child through:

- The centre ethos which promotes a positive, supportive and secure environment and gives children a sense of being valued
- The content of the curriculum
- The school behaviour policy which is aimed at supporting vulnerable children in the centre. The setting will ensure that the child knows that some behaviour is unacceptable but they are valued and not blamed for any abuse which has occurred
- Liaison with other agencies that support the child such as social services, health visitors, Child and Adolescent Mental Health Service, Education Welfare service and Educational Psychology service

- Ensuring that, where a child on the child protection register leaves, their information is transferred to the new school immediately and that the child's social worker is informed

We recognise that a number of other policies and procedures developed and operated by school form part of the wider agenda of safeguarding and promoting children's welfare these include the policies listed below:

Health & Safety

Allegations of abuse against staff

Policy and practice guidance for behaviour management

Use of Reasonable Force

Induction and Code of Conduct for staff

Staff recruitment and selection

Risk assessments

Child Protection Procedures

Further Guidance

Information Sharing – Advice for practitioners providing safeguarding services to vulnerable children, young people, parents and carers (March 2015)

Multi-Agency Statutory Guidance on Female Genital Mutilation (April 2016)

Useful Contact Numbers

- Children's Social Care Initial Contact Point: 01274 437500
- Emergency Duty Team: 01274 431010
- Education Social Work Service: 01274 439651
- Police: Javelin House, Child Protection Unit: 01274 376061

Designated Responsibilities for academic year 2017-18

Named Persons: Sharon Hogan, Helen Jones, Sam Renwick

Named Governors: Jill Gilhome and Philip Cavalier-Lumley

LA Designated Child Protection Team: - Tel 01274 434361, Floor 6, Margaret McMillan Tower, Princes Way, Bradford, BD1 1NN

Signed..... Chair of Governors

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