

DOWDALES SCHOOL

Child Protection/Safeguarding Policy

Introduction

Dowdales fully recognises the contribution it can make to protect safeguarding children and support pupils in school.

There are three main elements to our Child Protection Safeguarding Policy.

Prevention: Our third school aim states we strive "To provide a secure, happy and stimulating environment for all, where pupils not only fulfil their potential in all areas of the curriculum, but also learn to respect and value both themselves and others." Through our teaching and learning policy and our Maintaining Standards Policy we strive to create an environment of total care where pupils feel secure, supported, stimulated and empowered to take the positive steps necessary to protect themselves and others.

Protection: As part of their induction to the school all staff are given training in child protection matters. Staff are made aware of procedures relating to child protection in terms of their own actions and the need to pass information on to appropriate staff. If a member of staff suspects that a child is a victim of abuse or a pupil discloses that he/she is being abused, information **MUST BE** passed without delay to the Headteacher or the Head of Upper School. The Headteacher has a legal procedure to follow in all cases of disclosed or suspected abuse. The Head of Upper School is the named teacher contact in instances of abuse. In the event of the Headteacher's unavailability, his advice should be sought.

Support: Our aim is to provide the best possible support to pupils in Dowdales school. To this end, while working within the law, we will endeavour to treat sympathetically any instance of suspected abuse. However, teachers must recognise that they should not guarantee complete confidentiality when in one to one discussion with pupils.

This policy applies to all pupils and staff at the school, to parents and outside agencies who are involved with the school.

School commitment

We recognise that for children, high self-esteem, confidence, supportive friends and clear lines of communication with a trusted adult help prevention.

Our school will therefore:

- a) Establish and maintain an ethos where children feel secure and are encouraged to talk, and are listened to. This is achieved by giving the pupils a voice, respecting them, involving them, rewarding them, responding to them and through teaching them about their rights and responsibilities.
- b) Ensure that children know that there are adults in the school who they can approach if they are worried or in difficulty. This is achieved by having a

- clearly defined form tutor role, by providing systems for pupils to have monitoring from Heads of School, Year Tutor or Support Tutor and from publishing pupils "Rights and Responsibilities" in every classroom.
- c) Include in the curriculum activities and opportunities for PSE which equip children with the skills they need to stay safe from abuse and prepare them for the responsibilities of adult life. This is achieved through a comprehensive Citizenship programme, through schemes of work in Drama, Religious Studies and English and through assemblies and form tutor periods.
 - d) Ensure that wherever possible every effort will be made to establish effective working relationships with parents and colleagues from other agencies. This is achieved by having the home school partnership, termly reporting to parents, annual parents evenings and school policy which advocates early intervention with parents or other agencies when pupils present with problems or staff have concerns.

Framework

Schools do not operate in isolation. Child protection is the responsibility of all adults and especially those working with children. The development of appropriate procedures and the monitoring of good practice are the responsibilities of the LSCP- Local Safeguarding Children Board.

Roles and Responsibilities

All adults working with or on behalf of children have a responsibility to protect children. There are, however, key people within schools and the LEA who have a statutory responsibility under the Education Act 2002 Section 175. The Head of Upper School is the named Child Protection Officer for Dowdales.

The designated teacher will maintain a comprehensive, confidential child protection register. In liaison with the Headteacher he will discuss all matters relating to child protection issues in school involving other staff, parents, agencies as appropriate.

The Headteacher will act as the first point of referral for matters of Child Protection. She will always liaise with the designated teacher for Child Protection.

The Governors will only be involved in matters relating to child protection when not to do so would prevent them from carrying out their statutory responsibilities or where their support and guidance is required.

Procedures

We will follow the procedures set out in the document produced by the Cumbria Child Protection Committee 'Child Protection Handbook and Information'.

Child protection/safeguarding is part of the Induction programme of all new staff, every September. Copies of "what to do if you're worried a child is being abused" is issued.

A copy of this handbook is available from the Headteacher's office. This policy is available for Parents and other agencies to read on request.

Through its prospectus and annual report to governors the school will inform parents of the existence of this policy.

We also follow the procedures for allegations against teaching and non-teaching staff and Care, Control and Physical Intervention document.

Training and Support

Our school will ensure that the knowledge and practices of the Headteacher, designated teacher and governing body remain current and up to date and that relevant training is carried out.

Professional Confidentiality

Confidentiality is an issue which needs to be discussed and fully understood by all those working with children, particularly in the context of child protection. The only purpose of confidentiality in this respect is to benefit the child.

If a member of staff or Governor suspects that a child is a victim of abuse or a pupil discloses that he/she is being abused, information **MUST BE** passed without delay to the Headteacher or the Head of Upper School. The Headteacher has a legal procedure to follow in all cases of disclosed or suspected abuse. The Head of Upper School is the named teacher contact in instances of abuse. In the event of the Headteacher's unavailability, his advice should be sought.

A register of all children referred to Social Services, under child protection, is kept by the Head of Upper School. The Cumbria Child Protection handbook, which highlights all aspects of 'Child Abuse' procedures is available for all members of staff and again kept by the Head of Upper School.

Records and Monitoring

The designated teacher keeps a separate file on child protection matters which is securely stored.

Staff are informed as appropriate if a child is being monitored under child protection regulations. Referrals are always made after a meeting between the relevant parties. The Headteacher normally makes the decision whether or not to refer.

If a pupil transfers to another school and there have been or there are ongoing child protection issues then the school is contacted directly by the designated teacher to facilitate the confidential transfer of information and/or files.

Attendance at Child Protection Conferences

The Deputy Head, the Head of School or Year Tutor will attend a Child Protection conference. A meeting to discuss the situation and gather all relevant materials is always held before a Child Protection conference. The minutes of the conference are securely stored in the Child Protection file.

Supporting Pupils At Risk

This policy should be considered alongside other related policies in school. These are:

- Maintaining Standards policy
- Bullying Policy
- Special Educational Needs policy
- Health and Safety policy
- Equal Opportunities policy
- E-Safety Policy
- Policy for the use of force to control or restrain pupils

We recognise that statistically, children with behavioural difficulties and disabilities are most vulnerable to abuse. School staff who work, in any capacity, with children with profound and multiple disabilities, sensory impairment and/or emotional and behaviour problems are particularly sensitive to signs of abuse.

We identify vulnerable pupils as part of our primary liaison programme and through procedures throughout the pupils' time at Dowdales and we put in place packages of support.

Safe School, Safe Staff

All staff are made aware of all policies relating to:

- the Governors Expectations of Staff
- Child Protection
- Grievance, disciplinary and capability of teachers and non-teaching staff
- Allegations of abuse
- Use of restraint to control pupils

We comply fully with the Safeguarding Children policy and practice, paying particular attention to recruitment and vetting procedures.

This policy will be reviewed annually by Governors and staff.

Policy recommended and endorsed by: *Dowdales School Governing Body*

For further information, please contact: *the Headteacher or Designated teacher, Mr R Matheson*

WHOLE SCHOOL POLICY ON CHILD PROTECTION

School *Dowdales*

.....

A. Named staff/personnel with specific responsibility for Child Protection

Academic Year	Snr. Designated Teacher	Nominated Governor
<i>2007/08</i>	<i>Rob Matheson</i>	Mrs Debbie Sayles

B. Review Dates for this policy

Review Date	Changes Made	By Whom
<i>Sept 2008</i>		