

WARBERRY C of E FOUNDATION PRIMARY SCHOOL

Child Protection Policy

Warberry 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.
- Developing and then implementing procedures for identifying and reporting cases, or suspected cases, of abuse.
- Supporting pupils who have been abused in accordance with their 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 who 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.

In order to safeguard and promote the welfare of children this policy should be read in conjunction with other related policies in the school such as:

1. Health and Safety
2. Behaviour Management
3. Anti Bullying
4. Whistleblowing
5. Recruitment and Selection
6. Management of allegations against staff
7. Physical Interventions / Positive Handling
8. Safeguarding and ICT
9. Use of photography and videos
10. Drugs and substance misuse
11. Equal opportunities
12. First aid (including management of medical conditions)
13. PSHE Curriculum
14. Racial equality
15. Safeguarding statement in school prospectus
16. Sex education
17. Work placements

We will follow the procedures set out by Torbay Safeguarding Children Board – ‘South West Child Protection Procedures’ (www.swcpp.org.uk) and take account of guidance issued by the Department for Children, Schools and Families to:

- Ensure we have a designated senior person for child protection who has received appropriate training and support for this role.
- Ensure we have a nominated governor responsible for child protection.
- Ensure every member of staff, volunteer and governor knows the name of the designated senior person 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 school and staff for child protection by setting out its obligations in the school prospectus.
- Notify social care locality team 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.
- 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 local procedures where an allegation is made against a member of staff or volunteer.
- Ensure safe recruitment practices are always followed.
- Carry out an annual child protection audit, to be reviewed mid-year.

We recognise that children who are abused or witness violence, such as in the case of domestic abuse, 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 Services; Child and Adolescent Mental Health Service etc
- Ensuring that, where a pupil who is subject to a child protection plan leaves the school, their information is transferred to the new school immediately and the child's social worker is informed.

This policy will be reviewed annually.