

PRIESTLEY SMITH SPECIALIST SCHOOL

Child Protection Policy

Priestley Smith 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:**

1. Ensuring we practise safe recruitment in checking the suitability of staff and volunteers to work with children.
2. Raising awareness of child protection issues and equipping children with the skills needed to keep them safe.
3. Developing and then implementing procedures for identifying and reporting cases, or suspected cases, of abuse.
4. Supporting pupils who have been abused in accordance with his/her agreed child protection plan.
5. Establishing a safe environment in which children can learn and develop.

□ **We recognise that because of their 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.
- Ensure all staff and volunteers understand their responsibilities in being alert to the signs of abuse and for referring any concerns to the designated senior persons responsible for child protection.

□ **Priestley Smith School follows the Child Protection Procedures set out by the Birmingham Safeguarding Children Board, copies of which are kept in two blue ring-binders in the Headteacher's Office, and also takes account of guidance issued by the Department for Education and Skills to:**

- Ensure we have designated senior persons for child protection who have received appropriate training and support for this role every two years.

At Priestley Smith School the designated staff are

Nita Walker, Martin Bradbury and Helen Porter

- Ensure we have a nominated governor responsible for child protection.

At Priestley Smith the nominated governor is

Denise McManus

- Ensure every member of staff (including temporary and supply staff, part time and full-time staff and volunteers) and governing body knows the name of the designated senior persons responsible for child protection and their role.
 - Ensure that all staff and volunteers follow the agreed strategies and procedures outlined in Appendices 1-4 of this policy.
 - Ensure that all staff and volunteers undertake regular refresher training every three years in 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 services if there is an unexplained absence of more than two days of a pupil who is subject to child protection procedures.
 - Develop effective links with relevant agencies and co-operate as required with their enquiries regarding child protection matters including attendance at case conferences and core group meetings.
 - 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. (See Appendix 1)
 - Follow procedures where an allegation is made against a member of staff or volunteer.
 - Ensure safe recruitment practices are always followed.
- **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 option of a named pastoral mentor to provide additional support

- The school behaviour policy which is aimed at supporting all pupils in the school. The school will ensure that the pupil knows that some behaviour is unacceptable but that they are valued and not to be blamed for any abuse which has occurred.
- Liaison with other agencies that support the pupil such as social services, Child and Adult Mental Health Service, education welfare service and educational psychology service.
- Ensuring that when a pupil who is subject to child protection procedures leaves the school, their information is transferred to the new school immediately and that the child's social worker is informed.

Date of Initial Policy: January 2009

Date of Revision 1: January 2011

Date of Revision 2: September 2011

Policy Review Date:

The implementation of this policy will be continually monitored and will be reviewed no later than September 2013.

Appendices:

This policy is accompanied by the following appendices:

Appendix 1 Recording Systems within Priestley Smith

Appendix 2 Forms for use within Priestley Smith

Appendix 3 Child Protection Training Information Reference Pack:

- *Definitions of abuse*
- *Possible signs and symptoms of abuse*
- *Dealing with disclosures*

Appendix 4 Danger Areas for Staff