



CHILD PROTECTION POLICY

Learning at Charville is underpinned by our Core Values, which are as follows:

Respect
Independence
Self-belief
Honesty
Caring
Determination

The purpose of the Child Protection Policy

The school recognises that it has an explicit duty to safeguard and protect students from abuse as defined in the Children Act 2004 and the Education Act 2002. The overall intention and purpose behind the school's child protection policy is underpinned by the fundamental principle of the Children Act 1989 and Working Together to Safeguard Children's 2010.

The legislation places on us a duty to safeguard and promote the welfare of our pupils. When considering Child Protection issues, regard should be taken to linked Charville Primary School Policies: Anti-bullying, Equal Opportunities, Educational Trips Guidance, Health & Safety and Behaviour Policies.

'The welfare of the child is paramount'

Everyone in our school shares an objective to help keep students safe by:

- Providing a safe environment for students to learn in.
- Fostering a school environment, in which every student feels valued.
- Students are able to articulate their wishes and feelings in their preferred method of communication and in an atmosphere of acceptance and trust.
- Identifying and responding to students in need of support and/or protection.

School Commitment

1. Establish and maintain an ethos where students feel secure and are encouraged to talk, and are listened to.
2. To include in the curriculum activities and opportunities for students to acquire skills and attitudes, to both resist abuse in their own lives and to prepare themselves for responsibilities, including parenthood, in their adult lives.
3. To make known a clear model of management of suspected or disclosed abuse.

Roles and Responsibilities

The designated person for child protection is Nicola Kelly and in her absence, it will be Rena Madar (Deputy Head) and Louise Innes (Assistant Head). They and the nominated governor for child protection will receive training every two years. The Child Protection leads for the authority are Sally Morris – Child Protection Lead for Education (01895 277463) smorris2@Hillingdon.gov.uk and Rob Wratten (LADO) 01895 250975.

All adults working with or on behalf of students have a responsibility to safeguard and promote the welfare of students.

All staff and volunteers will be informed of their responsibilities in being alert to the signs of abuse and the procedures for referring concerns to the Designated Person.

All new staff, volunteers and regular supply staff will receive induction training and all staff will have refresher training every three years.

Statistically students with behavioural difficulties and disabilities are more vulnerable to abuse. Staff need to be particularly sensitive to signs of abuse.

We will support staff by providing an opportunity to talk through their anxieties with the Designated Senior Person. Staff can find the telephone numbers for Social Services and Sally Morris in the school office.

All staff, volunteers and support staff who work with children will have access to advice on the boundaries of appropriate behaviour. The DFE provide guidance on safe working practice.

We will investigate any absence of two days, and will ensure without satisfactory explanation, of a pupil currently on the child protection register is referred to their Education Welfare Officer and /or Social Worker/pastoral team.

The Attendance Manager will ensure that a named teacher is designated for Looked After Children (LAC) and the list of students is regularly reviewed and updated.

The Governing Body of our school is responsible for ensuring the annual review of the child protection policy and completing the monitoring form of child protection activity within the school. The designated governor for Child Protection is **Bob Charlton**.

Female Genital Mutilation

Please see appendix 1 for further information

Prevent Agenda: At Charville Primary School Academy Trust we believe all children should be kept safe. In accordance with this all staff will receive training with regard to the HM Gov script for Awareness of **Prevent Agenda**.

Procedures

Where it is believed that a student is suffering from, or is at risk of, significant harm, we will follow the procedures set out by the Local Safeguarding Children Board (LSCP) and take accounts of guidance issued by the DFE.

A flow chart of the procedure is displayed in the staff area.

Parents/carers may access the school's child protection procedures via the school prospectus / website. A copy is also displayed on the school noticeboard.

Telephone referrals to Social Care will be followed up in writing within 48 hours.

Written records of any concern regarding a child's safety will be kept in a file in a locked cabinet in the school office. This is separate from the main pupil file.

The school recognises that it does not have the responsibility to investigate cases of suspected child abuse.

We will co-operate with relevant external agencies in any enquiries regarding child protection matters, including representation at child protection conferences, core groups and multi-agency planning meetings.

Parents will be advised of the intention to refer to Social Care and their views and co-operation sought, unless we have good reason to believe that to do so would place a child at greater risk of harm.

All staff will make it clear to any child disclosing information that they cannot guarantee confidentiality, but they will only pass the information on to the people that can help them.

Information concerning students at risk will be shared with all members of staff on a “need to know” basis. The Designated Person will make a judgment in each individual case about who needs and has a right to access particular information.

Where there are concerns about a student, a teacher may be asked to keep a log of observations. This will be kept securely, separately from generally accessible pupil and class records.

All records are subject to the Freedom of Information Act (2000) and the Data Protection Act (1998). If there is any doubt as to the rights of any party to access information, we may seek legal advice prior to releasing any information.

Allegations against staff

All staff should be aware of their duty to raise concerns about the attitude or actions of colleagues.

If a student makes an allegation against a member of staff, the Head teacher should be immediately informed.

The Head teacher/senior teacher will discuss the allegation with the Lead Officers for Child Protection for the Local Authority at the earliest opportunity and before any actions are taken. (Rob Wrattan - LADO).

If the allegation concerns the behaviour of the Head teacher the chair of governors should be immediately informed.

Our lettings agreement for other users requires that the organiser will manage the suspension of adults where necessary from the school premises following an allegation against someone they employ.

Safe recruitment practice

All staff will have enhanced DBS checks. Checks will be accurately recorded on a single central record.

At least one person on every interview panel will be trained in safe recruitment practices.

E-safety

Children will be taught about E-Safety and learn how to keep themselves safe whilst in online environments and using new technologies.

Approved by Governing Body Summer 2016
Review Date: Summer 2017

Policy / child protection

Appendix 1

Female Genital Mutilation

Female Genital Mutilation occurs mainly in Africa and to a lesser extent, in the Middle East and Asia. Although it is believed by many to be a religious issue, it is a cultural practice. There are no health benefits.

Communities particularly affected by FGM in the UK include girls from: Somalia, Kenya, Ethiopia, Sierra Leone, Sudan, Egypt, Nigeria, Eritrea, Yemen, Indonesia and Afghanistan.

In the UK, FGM tends to occur in areas with larger populations of communities who practice FGM, such as first-generation immigrants, refugees and asylum seekers. These areas include:

London, Cardiff, Manchester, Sheffield, Northampton, Birmingham, Oxford, Crawley, Reading, Slough and Milton Keynes.

At Charville Primary School we believe that all our pupils should be kept safe from harm. Female Genital Mutilation affects girls particularly from North African countries, including Egypt, Sudan, Somalia.

'It is illegal in the United Kingdom to allow girls to undergo female genital mutilation either in this country or abroad. People guilty of allowing FGM to take place are punished by fines and up to fourteen years in prison.'

At Charville Primary School we have a duty to report concerns we have about girls at risk of FGM to the police and social services.

Key Points around Female Genital Mutilation:

- Not a religious practice
- Occurs mostly to girls aged from 5 – 8 years old; but up to around 15
- Criminal offence in UK since 1985
- Offence since 2003 to take girls abroad
- Criminal penalties include up to 14 years in prison

Reasons for this cultural practice include:

- Cultural identity – An initiation into womanhood
- Gender Identity – Moving from girl to woman – enhancing femininity
- Sexual control – reduce the woman's desire for sex