

Child Protection Policy for Parents and Carers

Introduction

At St Margaret's Academy we are concerned that all pupils remain safe and free from harm. We are committed to playing a full and active part in the multi-agency response to child protection concerns. Additionally, the school has a legal duty to safeguard and promote the welfare of children and to have a child protection policy to meet Department for Education and Skills and Department of Health requirements.

Through their day-to-day contact with pupils, and direct work with families, education staff have a crucial role to play in noticing indicators of possible abuse or neglect. Parents should be aware therefore that where it appears to a member of staff that a child may have been abused, the school is required, as part of the local child protection procedures to report their concern to Social Care immediately. To avoid any misunderstandings therefore, parents of children who sustain accidental injuries which result in cuts/bruises/fractures should inform the school without delay.

Principles

- Children have a right to be safe.
- Parents have a right to be informed.
- Children are best protected when parents and school can work together.

Partnership

School will inform parents of any concerns about their children (providing it does not compromise the pupil's safety) and will help and support them as necessary.

Prevention

School will take positive action to prevent children suffering abuse, neglect and exploitation through the development of an open culture that informs children of their rights and encourages them to speak about any concerns. The school will also address the issue of children's safety through the curriculum.

Responding to Concerns

School will refer all allegations or concerns that a child has been or is likely to be abused, neglected or at risk of exploitation to Social Care within the Children's Services Department. School will discuss with parents any concerns they have about children (providing this does not compromise the child's safety). Parents will be kept informed of what has happened.

Child/Child Abuse (Peer on peer abuse)

Physical and emotional abuse of children by other children will be dealt with through the school's anti-bullying policy. Parents will be kept informed. All concerns about possible sexual abuse will be referred to Social Care.

Filtering and Monitoring

The school uses SENSO to monitor school devices. It indicates and notifies the Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL) of any online safety concerns. The system also flags users who may be vulnerable or at-risk and users who may pose a risk to others, as well as any inappropriate or harmful behaviour. The DSL will look at the data and monitor what it is showing, sharing this with Trustees.

Child Protection Conferences

School will attend conferences and provide information about children and families. This information will be shared with parents beforehand. School will keep confidential child protection records separately from a pupil's academic and other school records.

Confidentiality

Information from parents about possible child abuse cannot be kept confidential. Information and records about children on the Child Protection Register will be given only to those people who need it and will be kept strictly confidential by them.

A Full copy of the schools CP and Safeguarding policy is available on the school website or through the office.