

Safeguarding and Child Protection

Information for Parents and Carers



At Birchgrove Primary School we value our children and their futures. With this in mind we have a Safeguarding and Child Protection Policy designed to keep our pupils as safe as possible.

As a parent or carer of our pupils you have a vital role to play. This school is part of your community and you are key in helping us keep our pupils safe. This leaflet will hopefully explain some of our procedures and your role within them.

At school, safeguarding and the safety of our pupils is paramount to all we do. We want all of our pupils to be happy and safe during their time with us. **Safeguarding** is an umbrella term and covers many more aspects than just 'child protection'.

Child Protection is protecting children from identified risks - originally focused on abuse at home, now a wider concept to include bullying, abuse through new technology etc.

Safeguarding extends beyond child protection to include preventing harm and promoting the wellbeing of children.

Staff Will:

- Remember that the priority is to protect the child;
- Treat the matter seriously;
- Listen but not judge;
- Believe the child;
- Tell the child that they have done the right thing in talking to a safe adult;
- Tell the child what will happen next where possible;
- Inform the Head teacher/Designated Safeguarding Person (DSP) of all concerns immediately.

Staff Will Not:

- Contact the parents - this is the job of the Headteacher or Social Services;
- Ask lots of questions if a child has told concerning information;
- Speak to anyone about whom allegations are made (including colleagues);
- Promise to keep secrets.

The Head teacher will NOT ask parents before calling Social Services if:

- The parent knew of the concerns and did not protect the child;
- The parent is the cause of the concern;
- The parent would not be able to discuss the concern;
- Discussing the disclosure with the parent would place the child at risk of harm

When school staff have concerns for a child, the Designated Safeguarding Person, Deputies or Headteacher will usually discuss this with the parent, but in some circumstances this will not be possible and Social Services may be called instead.

As a parent/carer you play a vital role in all that the school does, especially when it comes to ensuring all our pupils are safeguarded and protected.

As a school we ask that you as parents/ carers:

- Talk to staff about any concerns you have for your child;
- Remember that the school **MUST** share concerns about your child where they are at risk of harm;
- The school will **NOT** judge you, but they may have to share concerns about your child;
- The school **MUST** prioritise the safety and wellbeing of pupils, they cannot keep secrets from other agencies;
- Keep us informed of any changes at home which affect your child.

As a parent we hope you will help us in our legal duties to protect all of our pupils. As a school we have a duty to contact Social Services where we are concerned that a child may be at risk or suffering harm. Sometimes we may need to speak to you about your child and your circumstances.

Should we need to discuss concerns with parents, nobody within our school will judge you, or accuse you, we simply need to discuss the facts and decide whether you may need some extra help to give your child every opportunity they deserve.

Within this leaflet we have outlined some of the standard procedures the school **MUST** follow. None of these procedures are aimed at upsetting or distressing you as parents/carers. They are designed to look at your child's needs and make sure that if your child needs some extra help, they get it.

Child Protection concerns can involve:

- Children telling staff or other pupils that they are concerned about abuse or neglect issues;
- Children having injuries;
- Children behaving in a way that is unusual for their age and understanding e.g. sexual knowledge;
- Children being dirty, unwell, distressed or smelling regularly;
- Children who are overly hungry or tired;
- Children who are frightened or overly aggressive.

There may be many ways in which staff might become concerned about a child. Staff will always want to assist the child and the family. Discussions with parents are intended to support the family not accuse anyone.

Our **Safeguarding and Child Protection Policy** applies to all staff, governors and volunteers working within the school. The main points of our policy include:

- Ensure we check 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 themselves safe;
- Make sure procedures for identifying and reporting concerns are followed;
- Supporting pupils who are at risk in line with his/her agreed Child Protection Plan;
- Provide a safe environment in which children can develop and learn.

A full copy of the Safeguarding and Child Protection Policy is available on our website, along with other relevant information.

If you would like any further information regarding school policies then please visit our school website:

<https://www.birchgrovecardiff.co.uk/>

Likewise, please do not hesitate to get in touch with us so we can discuss these with you.

Our Safeguarding Team



Mrs Sarah Morgan



Miss Paula Broughton



Mrs Lucy Jones

At Birchgrove Primary we have a comprehensive safeguarding/child protection policy. All staff have undertaken safeguarding training that equips them to recognise and respond to child welfare concerns.

These concerns are then passed to the

Designated Child Protection Officer, Mrs Sarah Morgan (Headteacher)

Or in her absence

Deputy Designated Child Protection Officers, Miss Paula Broughton (Deputy Headteacher) or Mrs Lucy Jones (Additional Learning Needs Coordinator).

They follow strict guidelines on how to deal with any concerns as set out in the All Wales Child Protection Procedures.

The nominated governor for Child Protection is **Mrs Fiona Conlon**

