

OVERTHORPE PREPARATORY SCHOOL.

CHILD PROTECTION POLICY.

Mr. T.G. Gormley is the designated person for child protection and he has attended a county course. Both Mr and Mrs Gormley have read and studied the new county guidelines, 'Northamptonshire Inter Agency Child Protection Procedures 2006' and all members of the teaching staff have been asked to read them also.

This policy applies to everyone working at this school.

It is our desire to establish a safe school with an environment where pupils can develop and learn happily and without anxiety.

We will ensure we practise safe recruitment in checking the suitability of all staff and volunteers to work with children.

We will endeavour to raise awareness of child protection issues and we will try to equip children with the skills needed to keep them safe.

We will develop and then implement procedures for identifying and reporting cases, or suspected cases of abuse.

We will support pupils who have been abused in accordance with the individual child's child protection plan.

School staff, because of their daily contact with children, are in a good position to notice outward signs of abuse. Therefore the school will:

1. Maintain a situation where children feel safe, where they feel free to talk and where they are listened to.
2. Make sure that children understand that there are adults in the school whom they can approach if they are worried about anything.
3. Include opportunities within the curriculum for children to develop the skills they need to recognise and stay safe from abuse.
4. We will ensure that all staff and volunteers understand their responsibilities in being alert to the signs of abuse and their responsibilities for referring any concerns to the designated person.
5. We will develop effective links with relevant agencies and co-operate with them when we are asked to answer their enquiries on child protection matters.

6. We will ensure that parents have an understanding of the responsibility placed on the school by putting the information in the prospectus.
7. We will notify social services if there is an unexplained absence of more than two days of a child who is on the child protection register.
8. We will keep written records of concerns about children even when there is no need to refer the matter immediately.
9. We will ensure that all records are kept securely, separate from the main pupil records, and in a locked place.
10. We will develop and then follow procedures where an allegation is made against a member of staff.

We understand that children who witness violence or who are abused may feel helpless, insecure, humiliated and ashamed and may experience some sense of blame. We recognise that, for these children, school may be the only stable, secure and predictable environment. We also know that the behaviour of such children may be defiant and challenging or withdrawn and preoccupied. We will try our best to support such children through :

1. The content of the curriculum.
2. The school ethos which promotes a positive, supportive and secure environment.
3. Trying to encourage a sense of self worth.
4. Co-operation and contact with other agencies that support the pupil e.g. social services, educational welfare services and the educational psychology service.
5. Ensuring that, when a pupil, on the child protection register, leaves the school, the pupil's information is transferred to the new school immediately and that the child's social worker is informed.

When preparing this policy we have taken regard of DfES guidance 0027/2004 'Safeguarding Children in Education' and 'Safeguarding Children and Safer Recruitment in Education' 04217027/2007.

Last reviewed March 2009.