

BROOKVALE PRIMARY SCHOOL CHILD PROTECTION/SAFEGUARDING POLICY

Senior Designated Person for Child Protection:	Paula Casey
Other Named Persons	Rob Moore, Trish Wilson
CAF Co-ordinator	Clare Fallon
Learning Mentor/Counsellor	Julia Smith
Designated Governors	Julie Karmy, Lyn Reid
Lead Officer LA	Sharon Williams 0151 471 7532

Introduction

The health, safety and well-being of all our children must be of paramount importance to all adults who work in our school, whether in a paid or voluntary capacity. Our children have the right to protection from harm, regardless of age, gender, race, culture or ability. They all have the right to be safe in our school.

At Brookvale Primary we respect our children. The atmosphere in our school is one that encourages all children to do their best. We provide opportunities that enable them to make decisions for themselves. Our vulnerable children are identified and offered support by the Learning Mentor to help build resilience. We recognise that some children have needs which are not a 'high-risk' need for protection. Whenever we become aware that a child has simple needs which are not being met, we offer a Common Assessment, and with the family's consent, work with other agencies to address the child's needs.

Our teaching of personal, social and health education and citizenship, as part of the National Curriculum, helps to develop appropriate attitudes in our children and makes them aware of the impact of their decisions on others. PHSE /SEAL materials provide resources which enable us to tackle issues regarding healthy relationships, including bullying and abuse. Discussions about personal safety and keeping safe can reinforce the message that any kind of violence, whether physical or verbal, is unacceptable, and lets children know that it is okay to talk about their problems, and be signposted to sources of help.

This child protection policy is supported by other school policies, which are intended to safeguard and promote the welfare of our children. These include: Anti-bullying, Behaviour Management, Health, Welfare and Safety, Sex Education, Drug Education, Safer Recruitment, Staff Code of Conduct, Whistle-blowing and Allegations against Adults.

Aims and Objectives

- To ensure that all those working with children in school recognise that they are well placed to identify children about whom they have welfare concerns. Child Protection is part of safeguarding and promoting welfare. This refers to the activity that is undertaken to protect specific children who are suffering or are at risk of suffering significant harm.
- To raise awareness of the procedure within school for reporting child welfare concerns to the designated person.

- To ensure that everyone is aware of the need for effective communication between appropriate staff when dealing with child protection issues.
- To support the ethos and values of the school.

Procedure

There is a Senior Designated Person for Child Protection; this is currently the head teacher, however she may delegate responsibility in some circumstances.

Whenever a member of staff or volunteer suspects that a child in our school community may be a victim of abuse, they should immediately inform the designated person of their concerns. Abuse can be physical, emotional, sexual or neglectful in nature.

It is not the responsibility of school staff or volunteers to investigate suspected abuse. It is their duty to report concerns.

If the senior designated person or her named deputy is not available, the Safeguarding in Education Development Officer based in the local authority can be contacted to assist in clarifying understanding of a child's circumstances.

If concerns remain which may be of a child protection nature, discussions can then take place, without identifying the child in question; if necessary, with front line staff in Children's Social Care or the Safeguarding Unit. Should child protection concerns be established, it is necessary to identify the child at that point.

A referral will be made to Children's Social Care, as soon as abuse or neglect is suspected, by a telephone call and will be followed up in writing within 48 hours on the agreed standard referral form (Appendix 4).

It will normally be expected, as good practice, that a discussion of concerns will have taken place with the parent/carers, **but** there should be no such discussion with the family where:

- Sexual abuse in the home is suspected
- Fictitious illness is suspected
- The child may be placed at further risk by such discussion

The designated person will work closely with Children's Social Care and other agencies when Child Protection investigations involve pupils from this school.

All parties will handle these investigations in a confidential manner, sharing information with only those who need to know.

If a child protection referral is made, a Child Protection Case Conference may become necessary for the sharing of information. The conference brings together relevant professionals and family members and, where appropriate, children. All professionals present will be expected to share their knowledge of the child and family, and voice their opinion as to whether the child is in need of protection via a child protection plan.

Every effort will be made to attend case conferences. If this becomes impossible, a report to conference will always be sent.

At school we recognise that all information relating to individual child protection issues is confidential, and we treat it accordingly. We only share information with those who need to know, and keep all records securely filed away from the child's main school file.

If a child tells anyone in school that they have been, or are being abused, that person must never promise to keep the abuse secret. We explain to the child at a level appropriate to their understanding that we will have to tell the designated person so that they can help the child. We record what the child told us as soon as possible and use the child's own words not our interpretation.

Whenever a child subject to a child protection plan moves school it is the responsibility of the designated person for child protection to pass their confidential file to the receiving school without delay and to inform the child's social worker of any move.

The designated person for child protection and their deputy will attend training to refresh their own knowledge every 2 years minimum and will take responsibility for organising training for all those working in school at least once every 3 years.

The designated person will ensure that supply staff, students and volunteers in school are given written notice of this policy and who to inform of any concerns.

There are times when teachers and other staff specifically authorised by the head teacher, may need, in the course of their duty, to use physical intervention to restrain or control a child. The head teacher requires the adult involved in any such incident to report this to her immediately and to record it in the green incident file.

All those working in school have a duty to safeguard and promote the welfare of children by remaining vigilant as to their own conduct and that of their colleagues. Everyone will be made familiar with 'Guidance for Safe Working Practice for the Protection of Children and Staff in Education Settings'(DfES 2009); with the school's behaviour policy and with whistle blowing.

Those involved in the recruitment and selection of staff and volunteers will follow safer recruitment guidance which is now school policy and will further safeguard children by the maintenance of school's single central register of staff.

Children have been, and continue to be, abused by adults in education settings. Should an allegation be made against any adult working in this school, in either a paid or voluntary capacity, it must be reported to the head teacher who will discuss it with the Safeguarding in Education Development Officer or Safeguarding Unit, in line with HSCB Allegations against Adults procedures.

This document is based on guidance contained within:

Halton Safeguarding Children Board Pan Cheshire Child Protection Procedures 2007
What To Do If You're Worried A Child is Being Abused- DoH 2003
Safeguarding Children and Safer Recruitment in Education 2006 and
Working Together to Safeguard Children 2006

What is Abuse?

Abuse and neglect are forms of maltreatment of a child. Somebody may abuse or neglect a child by inflicting harm, or by failing to prevent harm. Children may be abused in a family or in an institutional or community setting, by those known to them or, more rarely, by a stranger. They may be abused by an adult or adults, or by another child or children.

Physical Abuse

Physical abuse may involve hitting, shaking, throwing, poisoning, burning, or scalding, drowning, suffocating, or otherwise causing physical harm to a child. Physical harm may also be caused when a parent or carer fabricates the symptoms of, or deliberately induces illness in a child.

Emotional Abuse

Emotional abuse is the persistent emotional maltreatment of a child such as to cause severe and persistent adverse effects on the child's emotional development. It may involve conveying to the child that they are worthless or unloved, inadequate, or valued only insofar as they meet the needs of another person. It may feature age or developmentally inappropriate expectations being imposed on children. These may include interactions that are beyond the child's developmental capability, as well as overprotection and limitation of exploration and learning, or preventing the child participating in normal social interaction. It may involve seeing or hearing the ill treatment of another. It may involve serious bullying, causing children to frequently feel frightened or in danger, or exploitation or corruption of children. Some level of emotional abuse is involved in all types of maltreatment of a child, though it may occur alone.

Sexual Abuse

Sexual abuse involves forcing or enticing a child or young person to take part in sexual activities, including prostitution, whether or not the child is aware of what is happening. The activities may involve physical contact, including penetrative and non-penetrative acts. They may include non-contact activities, such as involving children in looking at, or the production of on-line images, watching sexual activities, or encouraging children to behave in sexually inappropriate ways.

Neglect

Neglect is the persistent failure to meet a child's basic physical and or psychological need, likely to result in serious impairment of the child's health and development. Neglect may occur during pregnancy as a result of maternal substance misuse. Once a child is born neglect may involve a parent or carer failing to:

- Provide adequate food, clothing and shelter (including exclusion from home or abandonment)
- Protect the child from physical or emotional harm or danger
- Ensure adequate supervision (including the use of inadequate care-givers)
- Ensure access to appropriate medical care or treatment
- It may also include neglect of, or unresponsiveness to, a child's basic emotional needs.

Brookvale Primary School

Child Protection Issues

Name

DOB

Date	Issue causing concern	People informed



**HALTON BOROUGH COUNCIL
CHILDREN & YOUNG PEOPLE'S DIRECTORATE
REFERRAL & INITIAL INFORMATION RECORD**

REFERRAL TO CHILDREN'S SOCIAL CARE SERVICES

(A) **Child in Need Referral** - the referral form must include the written consent of the person with parental responsibility for the child/ren, for the sharing of information with other agencies.

(B) **Child Protection Referral** - All child protection referrals must be discussed with the Duty Officer, at the time the concerns come to light. The referral form must be completed subsequently and sent to the Duty Officer within 48 hours of the verbal referral having been made. The parents/carers consent should also be sought. However, if this should create or increase risk of immediate harm to either child or referrer, consent should not be sought. If consent is refused the referral should be made anyway. This must be discussed and agreed at point of telephone referral with Duty Officer. The exceptions to seeking consent will be any referral where Sexual Abuse or Fabricated and Induced Illness is suspected, in this instance there should be no discussion with family prior to referral to duty officer.

What is a child protection Referral?

Section 47(1) of the Children Act 1989 states that: Where a local authority have reasonable cause to suspect that a child who lives, or is found, in their area is suffering, or is likely to suffer, significant harm, the authority shall make, or cause to be made, such enquiries as they consider necessary to enable them to decide whether they should take any action to safeguard or promote the child's welfare.

Referral Details	CareFirst ID
Referred by: _____	Agency/Relationship to child _____
Address _____	
Post Code _____	Tel No _____ Mobile No _____ Email _____
Date of telephone Referral if applicable _____	

Child/Young Person's Name and Address	
Family Name _____	Forename(s) _____ DOB: _____ M <input type="checkbox"/> F <input type="checkbox"/>
Address: _____	
Postcode _____	Tel No _____ Responsible Local Authority _____
Current address (if different from above) _____	
Postcode _____	Tel No: _____

Please complete all sections of this form, incomplete referrals will not be accepted/ returned. Please contact the Duty Officer if you need to discuss the referral.