

New Hope Christian School (NHCS) Child Protection Policy Statement

Vision Statement

NHCS is committed to developing a learning environment which is:-

- Safe
- Caring
- Exciting
- Happy
- And full of opportunities

NHCS is dedicated to pursuing excellence through:-

- A stimulating and well resourced environment
- Enthusiastic and energising staff
- The development and encouragement of everyone
- Raising self esteem and awareness of others
- Encouraging respect

We aim to deliver an exciting and relevant curriculum through:-

- Excellent and enthusiastic teaching
- Innovation
- Encouraging reflection and thinking skills
- Providing opportunities to broaden creativity and self-worth
- celebrating achievements with each member of our school community, every

step of the way

Good practice requires all staff to be trained and follow school procedures.

This policy is designed to give clear guidance on Child Protection matters.

Definition of Abuse

Neglect

The persistent neglect of a child, or the failure to protect a child from exposure to any kind of danger, including cold or malnutrition. Failure to carry out important aspects of care, resulting in the impairment of the child's health or development, including non-organic failure to thrive.

Physical Abuse

Actual or likely injury to a child, or failure to prevent physical injury or suffering to a child including deliberate poisoning, suffocation and Factious Illness.

Sexual Abuse

The involvement of emotionally immature children or young people in sexual activity to which they cannot give informed consent or which defies social taboos.

Emotional Abuse

Actual or likely adverse effect on the emotional and behavioural development of a child caused by emotional ill-treatment or rejection. (This may result from locking the child away, excessive shouting, teasing, the denial of love, over protection so as to deny the child the normal experiences of life, lack of stimulation or play, constant criticism or simply ignoring the child).

DEALING WITH CONCERNS

Staff are asked to report any concerns to the Head Teacher, Deputy Head, SENCO or Pupil Support Worker as soon as possible. The concern may be a change in behaviour or physical appearance or an injury such as a bruise or burn. If a member of staff is concerned about a child they can ask the child for information or another teacher if appropriate. It is not appropriate to ask a child to undress to show an injury unless it is felt that medical attention may be needed, in which case seek help or advice from Head Teacher, Deputy Head Teacher, SENCO or Pupil Support Worker.

If an injury is visible during the normal school day then it should be logged onto the school management system as soon as possible with comment as to the time of day, size and colour of marking. It is the responsibility of the member of staff filling in the form to ensure that details are accurate.

The form when signed should be given to the Head Teacher as soon as possible, who will decide on the action to be taken.

If the Head Teacher is satisfied that a child has been, or is likely to be, abused then a referral must be made to Social Services. Other agencies may be consulted if relevant. Consent of parents should be sought before making a referral. If parents refuse to give consent, and the child is thought to be at risk, referral should still be made. This decision should be recorded in writing.

Parents will not be contacted directly by the school where sexual abuse is suspected. The school will follow guidelines agreed by the authority and will work closely with all other agencies.

Clear and detailed records about child protection issues are essential. Notes will be kept by designated staff in the school office. These are confidential and are not included in the Education (School Records) Regulations 1989. If a child changes schools, records will be sent to the new school following discussion between Head Teachers.

Staff have a professional responsibility to share relevant information about the protection of children with other professionals. If a pupil confides in a member of staff and requests that the information be kept secret, it is important that staff tell the pupil that they have a responsibility to pass on information for the pupil's own safety.

If a child then refuses to talk to a member of staff they should be told about Childline and given access to a telephone in private. A referral should still be made to the Designated Teacher. Any concerns about children should normally be shared with parents except where there is a possibility of sexual abuse when advice must be taken from Social Services or Child Protection Unit.

If a child starts to tell you something –LISTEN. Don't jump to conclusions, don't ask direct or leading questions (you may invalidate evidence), always believe the child and empathise with them. Record the discussion as precisely as you can as soon as possible, date and sign the record and give to the Head Teacher, Deputy Head, SENCo or Pupil Support Worker.

Child Protection Conferences

If a Child Protection Conference is called about a child, the school holds vital information and should attend. The Designated member of staff will determine which member of staff will attend these conferences. Other staff involved with the child will be asked to give information about attendance, presentation, educational ability and attitude, behaviour, relationships with adults and other children, any changes in behaviour or attitude, any injuries or concerns about health, any dealings with parents and any other knowledge regarding the family. This is in the form of a written report supplied to the conference and therefore available even if attendance is not possible. Head Teacher, Deputy Head or Pupil Support Worker will be able to give help and advice about what is needed and relevant.

If a child is placed on the Child Protection Register the notes are confidential and are kept secure. They may only be accessed by staff who need to know. Staff must remember the confidential nature of these notes. If a child is

registered on CPR their files will all be marked with a sticker which will be crossed out when they are de-registered. The fact that a child is on CPR can be known by all staff as it is important that they are aware that an increased vigilance is needed for that child. It is important that all changes or concerns about a child on CPR are logged and passed on to the designated member of staff, who will liaise with other agencies as appropriate.

Abuse by a Member of Staff

If any member of staff has reason to believe that another member of staff has abused a pupil or is likely to abuse a pupil, that suspicion MUST be reported to the Head Teacher immediately and LEA guidelines must be followed.

Other Agencies

At NHCS we work very closely with the Educational Welfare Service, the School Medical Officer, and the School Nurse, the Educational Psychologist, Social Services, Child Protection Unit and Police.

We work together to ensure that we are offering the best help and support to pupils and the families.

Staff and Volunteer Helpers

All staff employed at NHCS undergoes an enhanced police safety check. Volunteer workers and non-school personnel are subject to the same procedures. Police will complete checks on all parents who help in school on a regular basis.

Staff Training

Training will be organised for all staff to update them about child protection procedures as necessary. The Head Teacher and other key staff will attend courses and disseminate new information as it becomes available.

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