



Safeguarding policy

Purpose

Ambleside Primary School's whole-school safeguarding policy aims to provide clear direction to staff and others about expected codes of behaviour in dealing with child protection issues. The policy also aims to make explicit the school's commitment to the development of good practice and sound procedures. The purpose of the policy is, therefore, to ensure that child protection concerns and referrals are handled sensitively, professionally and in ways that support the needs of the child.

The school policy for Safeguarding was developed and agreed by the senior staff and has the full agreement of the Governing Body. The policy was approved and ratified by the Governing Body during the Spring Term 2010.

Introduction

Ambleside Primary School fully recognises the contribution it can make to protect the children and support the pupils in its care. There are three main elements to Ambleside Primary school's safeguarding policy:

1. **prevention** (positive school atmosphere, careful and vigilant teaching, pastoral care, support to pupils, providing good adult role models)
2. **protection** (following agreed procedures, ensuring staff are trained and supported to respond appropriately and sensitively to child protection concerns)
3. **support** (to pupils and school staff and to children who may have been abused)

This policy applies to all employees of Ambleside Primary school

School Setting Commitment

- To establish and maintain an ethos where children and young people feel secure and are encouraged to talk and are listened to
- To include in the curriculum and 'core' activities and opportunities for children and young people to acquire skills and attitudes to both resist abuse in their own home and to prepare themselves for the responsibilities including parenthood in their adult lives
- All staff whether permanent or temporary and volunteers who work with children, will be given a written statement about policy and procedures and names of relevant contacts within their organisations

Framework

Schools do not operate in isolation. Child protection is the responsibility of all adults and especially those working with children. Ambleside Primary School aim is to help protect the children in its care by working consistently and appropriately with child protection agencies. All children deserve the opportunity to achieve their full potential; these are highlighted in the outcomes from Every Child Matters.

- Stay safe
- Be healthy
- Enjoy and achieve
- Make a positive contribution

- Achieve economic wellbeing

Child protection is the responsibility of all adults especially those working with children. The development of appropriate procedures and the monitoring of good practice are the responsibilities of Nottingham's Local Safeguarding Children's Board. We are committed to respond in accordance with the Nottingham's Local Safeguarding Board Procedures in all cases where there is a concern about significant harm.

Significant harm

It is the Local Authorities duty is to investigate (S47 of the Children Act 1989). Where a Local Authority is informed that a child who is living, or is found, in their area is either subject to an emergency protection order, Police protection or they have reasonable cause to suspect suffering or is likely to suffer significant harm they must make such enquiries as necessary to promote or safeguard the child's welfare. The Children's Services Social Care Department undertake this responsibility on behalf of the Authority once a referral has been made. Harm means ill treatment or the impairment of health or development; development

means physical, intellectual, emotional, social or behaviour development. Health means physical or mental health. Ill-treatment includes sexual abuse and forms of ill-treatment which are not physical.

Note: harm now includes the impairment of a child's health or development as a result of witnessing the ill treatment of another person (Adoption and Children Act 2002)

'Significance could exist in the seriousness of the harm or the implication of it. This will be a finding of fact for courts. The court will have to establish which standard of health and development would be reasonable to expect for a child with similar attributes, assess the shortfall against the standard and decide whether the

difference represents significant harm.'

(*Children Act guidelines and Regulation*),

Parental Involvement

Parents/carers should be aware that the school will take any reasonable action to safeguard the welfare of its pupils In cases where the school has reason to be concerned that a child may be subject to significant harm, ill-treatment, neglect or other forms of abuse, staff have no alternative but to follow the Safeguarding Children Procedures and inform the Children's Services Social Care department or the Police Public Protection Unit of their concern.

Roles and responsibilities

All adults working with or on behalf of children have a responsibility to protect children. Within Ambleside Primary school the following individuals have special responsibilities: -

Mr. Paul Shepherd (Designated Person) Mrs K. Hannon (Nominated Deputy)

Role: to co-ordinate all matters relating to safeguarding/child protection issues.

These will include:

- Dealing with reports of abuse against children
- Dealing with complaints against staff (employees of Ambleside Primary School)
- Making referrals to child protection agencies if appropriate
- Keeping the head teacher fully informed of all child protection issues that may arise
- Ensuring all staff /governors(employees of Ambleside Primary School) receive training in Safeguarding/child protection every 3 year
- Ensuring that all new staff (employees of Ambleside Primary) are properly inducted in safeguarding issues
- Liaise with the school governor with special responsibility for child protection as appropriate

Mrs Sue Thornton and Mrs. Natasha Silver (school governors with special responsibility for child protection) Role: to liaise with the Designated Person on matters relating to safeguarding/ child protection issues and participate in the annual review of policy.

Procedures

The designated person will be informed immediately by an employee of the school, pupil of the school, parent of the school, other persons, in the following circumstances

- Suspicion that a child is being abused
- There is evidence that a child is being abused
- The Designated person will keep a full record of reports made and make referrals to child protection agencies if necessary.
- The head teacher will be kept informed at all times.

Making Referrals to Social Care

See appendix A

Professional confidentiality

Confidentiality is an issue which needs to be understood by all those working with children, particularly in the context of child protection Ambleside Primary School recognises that the only purpose of confidentiality in this respect is to benefit the child.

We recognise that all matters relating to child protection are confidential.

- The Head Teacher or Designated Person for Safeguarding will disclose any information about a child or a young person to other members of staff on a need to know basis
- All staff must be aware that they have a professional responsibility to share information with other agencies in order to safeguard children
- All staff must be aware that they cannot make a promise to a child to keep secrets
- Where safeguarding or child protection concerns are identified for a specific child this information will be held in a Confidential Pupil/Child Record, and securely within a locked cabinet

Records and monitoring

Well-kept records are essential to good child protection practice. Ambleside Primary School is clear about the need to record any concerns held about a child or children within its care, the status of such records and when these records should be passed over to outside agencies.

What should be recorded?

- Patterns of attendance
- Changes in mood
- Changes in classroom functioning
- Relationships (with peers, adults)
- Behaviour
- Statements, comments, stories, drawings
- General demeanour and appearance
- Parental interest and comments
- Home/family changes
- Medicals
- Response to PE/sport
- Injuries, marks, past and present

When is recording needed?

- When there is a concern over:
- Marks on the child's body

- Unusual, significant changes in behaviour
- Mood changes
- Puzzling statements or stories from a child
- Information from others
- If requested by another agency, for example, following an Initial Child Protection Conference

Training and Support

Ambleside Primary School ensures that the Head Teacher, Designated Person and governor with special responsibility for child protection receive training relevant to their role. The school also ensures that all its employees are kept informed about child protection issues through a programme of staff Inset.

It is required that the Designated Person for Safeguarding and Child Protection undertakes training in inter agency working and refresher training at two yearly intervals.

All other staff who work with children, paid and unpaid should undertake training to equip them to carry out their responsibilities for Child Protection effectively and this should be updated at three year intervals.

Attendance at Child Protection conferences

In the event of Ambleside Primary School being invited to attend a child protection conference, the designated Person will represent whenever possible the school and provide information relevant to Child protection conference (Initial/Review). If this is not possible then a member of staff with a good understanding of the issues and concerns may attend. Failing that a report will be sent following consultation with the relevant members of staff.

Racial Equality & Equal Opportunities Statement

All children have equal access and inclusive rights to the curriculum regardless of their age, gender, race, religion, belief, disability or ability. We plan work that is differentiated for the performance of all groups and individuals. Ambleside Primary School is committed to creating a positive climate that will enable everyone to work free from racial intimidation and harassment and to achieve their full potential. Policies are available on each of these that expand on this further.

Complaints against employees

A child protection complaint involving a member of staff must be reported to the Head teacher immediately. If the complaint involves the head teacher then the next most senior member of staff must be informed. Consultation without delay with the Education Safeguarding Team will determine what action follows. A multi agency strategy meeting will be arranged to look at the complaint in its widest context, the head /a senior member of school staff must attend this meeting.

Supporting children

Ambleside Primary School recognises that children who are abused or who witness violence may find it difficult to develop a sense of self-worth and to view the world in a positive way. Ambleside Primary School may be the only stable, secure and predictable element in the lives of some of the children under its care. The school, therefore, recognises that such children might exhibit challenging and defiant behaviour and will take careful note of the context of such behaviour.

Ambleside Primary School also recognises that some children who have experienced abuse may in turn abuse others. This requires a considered and sensitive approach in order that the child can receive appropriate help and support. Ambleside Primary school recognises that, statistically, children with behavioural difficulties and disabilities are the most vulnerable to abuse. School staff who work, in any capacity, with children with profound and multiple disabilities, sensory impairment and/or emotional and behavioural problems will need to be particularly sensitive to signs of abuse. Ambleside

Primary school also recognises that in a home environment where there is domestic violence, drug or alcohol abuse, children may also be vulnerable and in need of support and protection.

This policy should be read in conjunction with other related policies in school.

This policy has been informed by the following:

Education Act 2002

Nottingham City LA procedures for dealing with allegations/complaints against staff

Framework for the Assessment of Children and Families Children Act 1989

Working together to safeguard children DOH (2006)

Nottingham City's Local Safeguarding children procedures

Circular 0027/04 Safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children etc

Protection of Children Act 2000

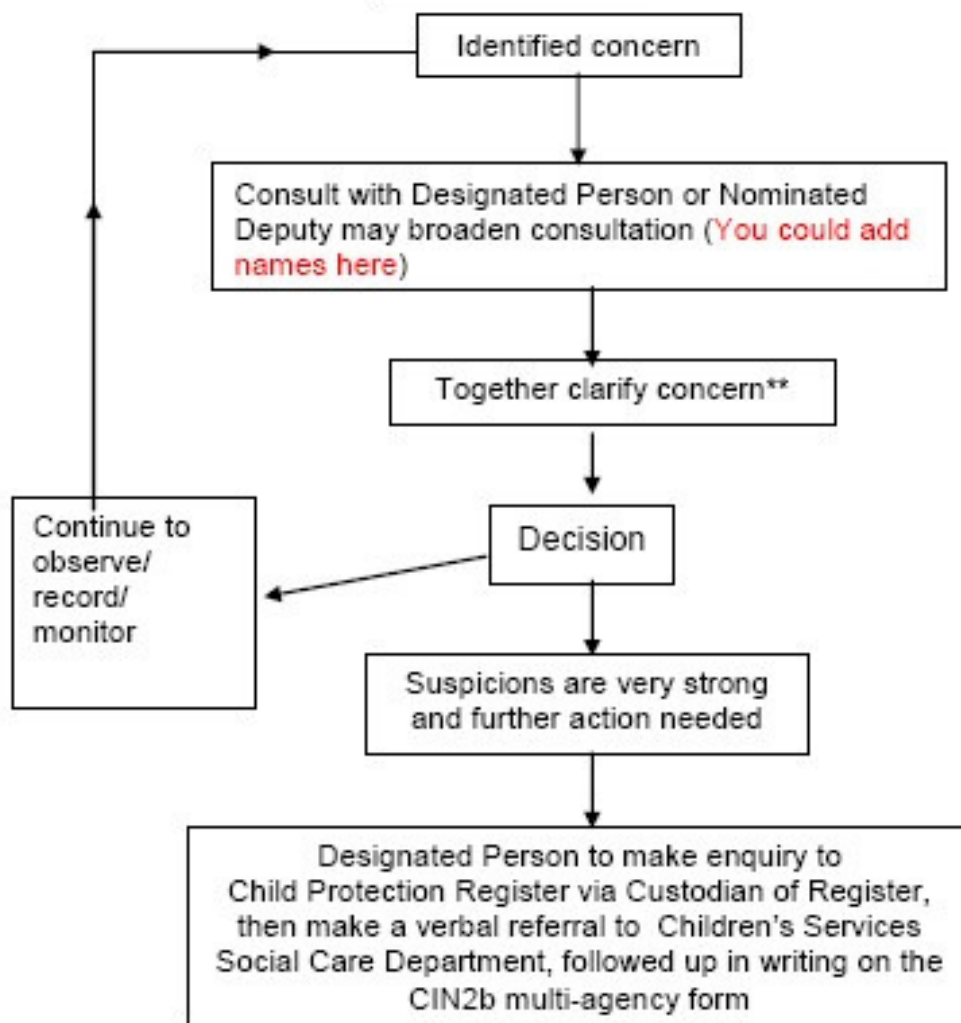
Review

This policy will be reviewed in the spring term 2014.

Referrals

Channels of communication should be quick and clear:

Suspected Child At Risk Action to take



** Any member of staff who is unhappy with the joint decision made with the Designated Person can contact the Education Safeguarding Team

Safe Schools /Safe staff