

## TALBOT HEATH SAFEGUARDING AND CHILD PROTECTION POLICY

**This policy applies to the whole school including the Early Years Foundation Stage**

Definitions:

Safeguarding – *The process of protecting children from abuse or neglect, preventing impairment of their health and development, and ensuring they are growing up in circumstances consistent with the provision of safe and effective care that enables children to have optimum life chances and to enter adulthood successfully.* (“Working Together to Safeguard Children 2006” HM Government)

Child Protection – *Child Protection is a part of safeguarding and promoting welfare. This refers to the activity, which is undertaken to protect specific children who are suffering or are at risk of suffering significant harm.*

Talbot Heath fully recognises its responsibility to safeguard and promote the welfare of the children and young people in its care. Safeguarding children has the highest priority in the school and as a minimum we will protect children and young people from physical, sexual or emotional abuse and ensure that they are not neglected.

Safeguarding is rooted in ensuring that the school organisation, its activities, staffing and procedures are aimed at providing an environment in which children and young people feel secure and happy and in which their individual needs are met.

Our policy applies to all staff, governors and volunteers working in the school and is based on the model policy developed by the Department for Children, Schools and Families (DCSF). It is produced in accordance with local inter-agency procedures (Poole, Bournemouth, Dorset and Hampshire).

There are five main elements to our policy:

- Ensuring we practise safe recruitment in checking the suitability of staff and volunteers to work with children and young people
- Raising awareness of safeguarding and child protection issues through staff induction and staff training and equipping children with the skills needed to keep them safe
- Developing and then implementing procedures for identifying and reporting cases, or suspected cases, of abuse
- Supporting students who have been abused, in accordance with their or his/her agreed child protection plan
- Establishing a safe environment in which students can learn and develop

We recognise that, because of the day-to-day contact with children, school staff are well placed to observe the outwards signs of abuse.

The school will therefore:

- Seek to maintain an environment where pupils feel secure, are encouraged to talk and are listened to
- Ensure pupils know that there are adults in the school whom they can approach if they are worried
- Provide a range of opportunities and levels of support to enable each child or young person to express any fears, concerns or worries that they have either within school or in the home environment.

- Include opportunities in the PSE curriculum for pupils to develop the skills they need to recognise and stay safe from abuse

We will follow the procedures set out by the Local Safeguarding Children Board and take account of guidance used by the DCSF to:

- Ensure we have a designated teacher for Child Protection in the Junior and Senior Departments as well as a Deputy, who have received appropriate training and support for this role. (In Senior School this is the Head (Mrs. C. Dipple) and the Deputy Head (Miss R. Nash) and in Junior School this is the Head (Mrs. K. Leahy) and the Deputy Head (Mrs. J. Rook) Mrs. Leahy is also responsible as the designated person for EYFS)
- Ensure we have a nominated Governor responsible for child protection
- Ensure every member of staff, volunteer and governor knows the name of the designated teachers responsible for child protection and their role
- Ensure that all other staff who work with children receive training in child protection every three years
- Ensure that all staff and volunteers understand their responsibilities in being alert to the signs of abuse and responsibility for referring any concerns to the designated teacher responsible for child protection
- Ensure that parents have an understanding of the responsibility placed on the school and staff for child protection by setting out its obligations in the School Handbooks and on the website
- Notify Social Services if there is an unexplained absence of more than two days of a pupil who is on the child protection register
- Develop effective links with relevant agencies and cooperate, as required, with their enquiries regarding child protection matters including attendance at case conference
- Keep written records of concerns about pupils, even when there is no need to refer the matter immediately
- Ensure that all records are kept securely in a locked location, separate from the main pupil file.
- Where an allegation is made against a member of staff or volunteer, the school will follow the DCSF procedures as outlined in Safeguarding Children & Safer Recruitment in Education.
- Ensure that safe recruitment practices are always followed.

We recognise that young people who are abused or witness violence may find it difficult to develop a sense of self worth. They may feel helplessness, humiliation and some sense of blame. The school may be the only stable, secure and predictable element in their lives. When at school their behaviour may be challenging and defiant or they may be withdrawn.

The school will endeavour to support the student through:

- The content of the curriculum
- The school ethos
- The school's Behaviour Policy which is aimed at supporting vulnerable pupils in the school. The school will ensure that the pupils know that some behaviour is unacceptable but that they are valued and not to be blamed for any abuse which has occurred.

- Liaison with other agencies that support the pupil such as Social Services, Child and Adult Mental Health Services, Education Welfare Service and Educational Psychology Service
- Ensuring that, when a pupil is on the Child Protection Register their information is transferred to the new school immediately and that the pupil's social worker is informed.

**Talbot Heath's policy is to follow Government legislative guidelines on safeguarding children. This is contained in the following references, copies of which are kept within the school:**

Every Child Matters (2004 & 2005)

Guidance for Safe working practices for the protection of children and staff in educational settings 2004

"Working Together To Safeguard" Dept of Health, Home Office and DfEE 1999 – updated April 2006

National Care Standards Commission – Minimum Standards No.4

The Welfare of Children in Boarding Schools (Social Services Inspectorate)

The Children Acts 1989 and 2004:

The Children Act 1989, Guidance and Regulations, Vol 4, Residential Care  
(Department of Health)

The Children Act 1989, Guidance and Regulations, Vol 5, Independent schools  
(Department of Health)

AMA Guidance for Safer Working Practice for Adults who work with Children and Young People 2007

Local Safeguarding Children Board Information 2008

**This policy should be read in conjunction with other school policies and procedures relating to pupil welfare and the guidance notes in the relevant staff handbooks.**

Approved by the Governing Body – March 2010