

**Child Protection Policy at
St. Edmund's Catholic Primary School**

Designated Senior Person (DSP)	Deputy DSP	Nominated Governor
Mr. D. Ashley	Mr. D. Hennigan	Mrs. F. Hopkins

Integrated Assessment and Support Team - Skelmersdale

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1 Introduction

- 1.1** The health, safety and well-being of all our children are of paramount importance to all the adults who work in our school. Our children have the right to protection, regardless of age, gender, race, culture or disability. They have a right to be safe in our school. Our school fully recognises the contribution it can make to protect children and support pupils.
- 1.2** In our school we respect our children. The atmosphere within our school is one that encourages all children to do their best. We provide opportunities that enable our children to take and make decisions for themselves.
- 1.3** 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. We also teach them how to recognise different risks in different situations, and how to behave in response to them.

2 Aims and objectives

- 2.1** This policy ensures that all staff in our school are clear about the actions necessary with regard to a child protection issue. Its aims are:
- to raise the awareness of all staff and identify responsibility in reporting possible cases of abuse;
 - to ensure effective communication between all staff when dealing with child protection issues;
 - to lay down the correct procedures for those who encounter an issue of child protection.

3 Procedures

- 3.1** There is a named person in our school who is the Designated Senior Person (DSP) Responsible for Child Protection. There is a Deputy Designated Senior Person.

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- 3.2** If any adult suspects that a child in this school may be a victim of abuse, they must immediately inform the DSP about their concerns. Abuse can be of a sexual, emotional or physical nature. It can also be the result of neglect.
- 3.3** Any action that the named person takes when dealing with an issue of child protection must be in line with the procedures outlined in the LEA Child Protection guidelines.
- 3.4** When necessary the school's DSP will work closely with Children's Social Care professionals and the Area Child Protection Committee (ACPC) when investigating any allegations of abuse. All parties involved handle such investigations in a sensitive manner, but the interest of the child is of paramount importance.
- 3.5** If a child alleges abuse, the school usually makes a referral without communicating with parents first. In some circumstances we inform parents first.
- 3.6** If a child protection referral is made, a case conference is held within eight working days of the decision. The case conference offers the opportunity to share information and formulate a plan of action. Staff are expected to attend and participate in all case conferences and meetings held under the LEA guidelines.
- 3.7** We regard all information relating to individual child protection issues as confidential, and we treat this accordingly. We only pass information on to appropriate persons. We inform the child at all stages of who is involved, and what information we have given them.
- 3.8** We require all adults wishing to work at the school – either paid or unpaid, to have their application vetted through Criminal Records Bureau in order to ensure that there is no evidence of offences involving children or abuse.
- 3.9** There may be times when adults in our school, in the course of their duty, use physical intervention to restrain children. The headteacher requires the adult involved in any such incident to report this to him/her immediately, and to record it in the school's serious incident book.
- 3.10** All adults in the school receive regular training to raise their awareness of abuse and their knowledge of agreed local child protection procedures.

4 Monitoring and review

- 4.1** The governing body regularly reviews any incidents detailed in the interventions book. A named governor participates in the school's training with regard to the child protection procedures. This policy is reviewed annually by the governing body.

Signed:

Date: