

ST KATHARINE'S CE (VC) PRIMARY SCHOOL, SAVERNAKE

CHILD PROTECTION POLICY October 2010

(Approved Governing Body on 13 October 2010)

St Katharine's Primary School, Savernake fully recognises its responsibilities for child protection.

1. Purpose of policy

We recognise that, because of their day to day contact with children, school staff are well placed to observe the outward signs of abuse. The school will therefore:

- Establish and maintain an environment where children feel secure, are encouraged to talk and are listened to.
- Ensure children know that there are adults in the school whom they can approach if they are worried.
- Include opportunities throughout the curriculum, including ICT and PSHE, for children to develop the skills they need to recognise abuse and stay safe from it.

2. Aims

This policy applies to all staff, governors and volunteers working in the school. The policy has five main elements:

- Ensuring we practise safe recruitment in checking the suitability of staff and volunteers to work with children.
- Raising awareness of child protection issues 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 pupils who have been abused in accordance with their agreed child protection plan.
- Establishing a safe environment in which children can learn and develop.

3. Action to be taken by the school (based on s.175 Education Act 2002)

We will follow the child protection procedures set out by the Wiltshire Local Safeguarding Children Board and available at www.swcpp.org.uk and will take account of guidance issued by the Department for Education to:

- Ensure we have a designated senior person for child protection who has received appropriate training and support for this role (this is

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Mrs Sharon Cross. Mr Kevin Sandall will deputise in **Mrs Cross's** absence).

- Ensure we have a nominated governor taking a lead role for child protection, including:
 - Championing child protection issues within the school and liaising with the headteacher
 - Having an overview of the Child Protection and all related policies
 - Auditing safeguarding measures annually alongside the Headteacher.

This is **Mr Peter Holland**.

- Ensure that every member of staff, volunteer and governor knows the name of the designated teacher responsible for child protection and their role.
- Ensure all staff and volunteers understand their responsibilities in being alert to the signs of abuse and responsibility for recording any concerns and referring any concerns to the designated teacher responsible for child protection.
- Notify the appropriate social care locality team if there is an unexplained absence of more than two days of a pupil who is on the child protection register.
- Ensure all staff receive child protection training every three years, and that lead people (Designated Child Protection Teacher and Nominated Child Protection Governor) are trained every two years (in accordance with Wiltshire Schools Child Protection Training guidance)
- Develop effective links with relevant agencies and co-operate as required with their enquiries regarding child protection matters including attendance at case conferences.
- Keep written records of child welfare and child protection concerns about children, even where there is no need to refer the matter immediately.
- Ensure all child welfare and child protection records are kept securely, and in locked locations.
- Ensure safer recruitment practices are always followed.
- Ensure staff and volunteers understand their responsibilities for safer working practices, as outlined in Appendix 1 of this policy.
- Ensure that any allegations against members of staff with a child protection aspect are dealt with following local procedures - all such concerns to be dealt with urgently, with concerns about staff to be

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reported to the Headteacher, but concerns about the Headteacher reported to the Chair of Governors.

- Ensure that the school building and site are appropriately secure, with a clear record kept of any risk assessments carried out.
- Ensure that other school policies which have a safeguarding element (eg health and safety; anti-bullying; e-safety; behaviour) are all consistent with this policy and with each other and where appropriate make cross-reference to this policy.
- Carry out an annual child protection and safeguarding audit, and track progress against a safeguarding action plan, reviewed mid-year. The Governing Body will receive a safeguarding and child protection report at least twice a year (based on the annual audit and review).
- Ensure all staff, governors and volunteers receive and sign for a copy of this policy.
- Ensure that parents receive information from the school about the responsibility placed on the school and staff for child protection.

4. Support to pupils at risk

We recognise that children 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 the lives of children at risk. When at school their behaviour may be challenging and defiant or they may be withdrawn. The school will endeavour to support the pupil through:

- The content of the curriculum.
- The school ethos which promotes a positive, supportive and secure environment and gives pupils a sense of being valued.
- The school behaviour policy which is aimed at supporting vulnerable pupils in the school. The school will ensure that the pupil knows that some behaviour is unacceptable but 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 Adolescent Mental Health Service, education welfare service and educational psychology service.
- Ensuring that, where a pupil who is subject to a child protection plan leaves the school, their information is transferred to the new school immediately and the child's social worker is informed.

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5. Safer working practice

The most recent government version of the government's 'Guidance for Safer Working Practice for Adults who Work with Children and Young People' is attached as Appendix 1. This indicates that there must be clear professional reason for all conduct of staff and volunteers.

6. Policy review

This policy will be reviewed annually by the Governing Body.

Date approved by Governing Body: 13th October, 2010

Date of next review: October 2011.

Signed: P R J Holland
(Nominated Governor)

Signed: S Cross
(Headteacher and Designated Senior Person)

Dated:

NB: All staff, Governors and volunteers to receive and sign for a copy of this policy.

	<i>Signed</i>	<i>Print name and position</i>	<i>Date</i>
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APPENDIX 1:

Attach the DCSF document January 2009 *Guidance for Safer Working Practice for Adults Who Work With Children and Young People*