



## Bowsland Green Child Protection Policy

### Mission Statement

This school is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people. Our Child Protection Policy seeks to support the child's development in ways that will establish security, confidence and independence in protecting themselves and provides clear guidelines and expectations for all staff to help achieve these goals. It should be regarded as central to the well being of the child and is therefore seen to be an intrinsic part of all aspects of the curriculum.

### Definitions of Abuse

At Bowsland Green we define abuse in the following ways:

- Physical abuse includes physical injury, over chastisement, burning, scalding or poisoning
- Emotional abuse is the failure to meet essential emotional needs of a developing child. These include affection/approval, support, stimulation and recognition of the child as an individual
- Sexual abuse is the involvement of children in sexual activities that they do not fully comprehend and/or which is illegal. It includes non-contact activities including involving children in looking at pornographic material or watching sexual activities
- Neglect includes failure to provide adequate shelter, clothing, food and health care and leaving children in circumstances where they are at risk

### Aims

- 1. To ensure the school environment is as safe as possible we will**
  - Apply whole school child protection policy consistently
  - Relate the policy to the values and ethos of the school
  - Equip children with the appropriate tools to make reasoned and informed choices, judgements and decisions regarding their own safety
  - Establish and maintain a high profile for safeguarding children
  - Follow the Local Authority policy to ensure acceptable strategies to comfort/restrain a child are used
  - Create the space so that children can be listened to and articulate their wishes and feelings
  - Ensure that new staff are recruited according to Local Authority guidelines
- 2. To make child protection a priority for all those associated with the school including pupils, parents, teachers and governors we will**
  - Designate responsibility for safeguarding children to the Headteacher (and Deputy in her absence).
  - Use the school prospectus to publicise our safeguarding procedures
  - Publish the policy to parents every two years, after review
  - Designate a governor responsible for monitoring safeguarding policy and procedures; currently it is Mrs Liz Powell
  - Provide a model for open and effective communication between children, teacher, parents, agencies and other adults working with children
- 3. To develop a framework which defines agreed roles and responsibilities and promotes consistency in carrying out designated tasks we will**
  - Maintain unambiguous procedures for dealing with safeguarding children which the whole school community are aware of (see below)

- Ensure all staff acquire a knowledge and understanding of procedures and have the skills and ability to recognise potential or actual abuse and the handling of a 'direct disclosure'. This includes regular training for designated staff and governor.
  - Make immediate contact with parents if abuse or neglect is suspected
- 4. To help children acquire skills and attitudes to both resist abuse in their own lives and prepare them for responsibilities including parenthood in their adult lives we will**
- Allow a variety of opportunities for class and group discussion of thoughts and feelings in an atmosphere of trust and tolerance- PSHE lessons, circle times and SEAL
  - Plan age appropriate opportunities into the curriculum that allow children to consider explicit personal safety issues e.g. Stranger Danger, Internet safety
- 5. To provide support, advice and guidance to parents we will**
- Highlight child protection:
    - Newsletters
    - Staff being available to talk to parents
  - Involve parents from earliest stage
  - Seek to understand personal issues when communicating with parents
  - Monitor children considered potentially at-risk for a designated period
  - Encourage parents into school to discuss support that we can offer
  - Keep parents informed of progress
  - Refer to Social Services for advice and support in cases of immediate risk

### Procedure for Child Protection

#### 1. TELL!

If you are a pupil, member of staff or parent and detect abuse or neglect, within the terms of the definition above, please report it directly to any member of staff who will report it to the Head teacher. Signs that a child may be being abused include:

- Marks/bruises/black eyes, unexplained injuries, flinching at sudden movement
- Attention seeking behaviour, difficulty with building relationships
- Poor personal hygiene/health, inadequate clothing/food
- Change of mood/behaviour, fatigue, change in relationship with friends

Children can also reveal abuse through play, drama, writing and art work or may directly talk to you about something that leads you to think they could be at risk.

#### 2. INVESTIGATION

Once a concern has been reported, it will be investigated by the Head teacher **in confidence** (or by the child protection governor if the concern relates to the Head). Child Protection records are confidential and will be kept in a locked place in the office. Parents/Carers will be informed of the concern as soon as possible.

#### 3. INTERVENTION

If a concern is grave or indicates a child is at immediate risk it will be reported to Social Services. All concerns will be logged in the child protection file by the Head teacher.

#### 4. FOLLOW-UP

Children considered potentially at risk will be monitored for a set period. Written records will be shared with appropriate staff, who will meet regularly to discuss the situation. Such records will be handed on each year and, where appropriate, to receiving schools. Children who have made a disclosure will be given ongoing support, as will staff who deal with such cases. All staff will respect the sensitive and confidential nature of safeguarding children.