



## **King Edward VI School Lichfield**

### **Child Protection Policy**

#### **Aims of the School**

- We want everyone in our school to develop to their full potential.
- We value qualities of self-esteem, confidence, satisfaction and enjoyment through effort and achievement.
- We show a sense of responsibility for one another and for the school community as a whole.

#### **Introduction**

In endorsing this policy the Governors recognise that the school has a legal duty under s. 175 Education Act 2002 and the 1989 Children Act to work with other agencies in safeguarding children and protecting them from “significant harm”. The framework for such procedures is defined by DfES Circular 0027/September 2004 and the Staffordshire Area Child Protection Committee. These duties relate to all children and young people under the age of 18.

This policy has been written having taken into account advice from the Pupil and Student Services Department of Staffordshire County Council and in accordance with guidelines issued by the Staffordshire Area Child Protection Committee. It should be read in conjunction with the school’s own Guidelines for Responding to Suspected Cases of Child Abuse which are published in the Staff Handbook.

#### **Child Protection Co-ordinator**

The school’s Child Protection Co-ordinator is Eric Lunt.

#### **Nominated Governor for Child Protection**

The nominated Governor for Child Protection is Kathryn Wilcox

## Policy

The Governors commit themselves and all staff of the school to seeking to do all they can to safeguard the welfare, well-being and safety of all students in their charge by:

- having in place guidelines which set out clear procedures which must be followed by all staff where there are suspicions that the welfare, well-being or safety of a student may be at risk. (These guidelines are published annually in the Staff Handbook.)
- appointing a designated teacher as Child Protection Co-ordinator to whom all concerns about the welfare, well-being and safety of students should be addressed.
- nominating a Governor who is charged with maintaining an overview of the school's policy and practices for Child Protection
- ensuring that all staff receive appropriate and regular training to enable them to be familiar with the warning signs of abuse and to know how to respond in the event of a significant concern or a disclosure of abuse.
- ensuring that all staff understand the boundaries of appropriate practice within the school and recognise that the school's role in responding to suspicions of abuse is to refer and not to investigate.
- fostering appropriate and caring relationships between staff and students in which children receive from adults confirmation that their worries and concerns will be taken seriously.
- ensuring that all staff understand that punishment in the form of hitting, slapping or shaking is not acceptable in school. In the unlikely event that physical force is necessary to restrain a child or to protect a child from injury then this will be carried out and documented in accordance with the relevant guidance and policy.
- providing, through the curriculum, appropriate opportunities for students to learn about the risks of abuse and to be equipped with the skills which they need to care for others and to stay safe themselves.
- exercising due care in the appointment of staff so that children are provided with appropriate role models and are not put at risk from within the establishment.
- seeking to work closely and foster good relations with other agencies with whom the school shares a responsibility for the protection of children so that a common and shared understanding exists of roles and boundaries and individual cases can be dealt with appropriately, professionally and quickly.
- ensuring that, where complaints are made about staff behaviour, ALL those involved, both students and staff, receive a fair hearing.
- having in place a Behaviour Policy and an Anti-Bullying Policy.

## **Referral**

Parents will normally be consulted and their consent obtained before any referral is made to an agency outside the school under local “children in need” procedures. However, staff cannot guarantee to consult parents first, or to keep children’s concerns confidential, if referral must be made to the appropriate agencies in order to safeguard the child’s welfare.

*Ratified by Governors – 17 March 2005*

*Minute Number - 03/05 5*