

## St Michael's Catholic Primary School

### Child Protection Policy

At St Michael's School, we are aware of the vital role that we all play in protecting our children from potential threats to their safety and well being. School staff are alert to identify any child at risk of significant harm. All is done to ensure that the welfare and well being of the child is utmost in our thoughts and actions.

In formulating and applying this policy, the Governing Body and Staff of our Catholic school seek to promote and implement in relevant ways the aims and intentions of the Mission Statement, '*Praise the Lord in Work, Play and Prayer*', that has been agreed by the whole school community.

#### The role of the Governing Body

The Governing Body ensures that:

- this child protection policy is reviewed annually
- procedures for recruiting and selecting staff and volunteers include relevant screening in accordance with the expectations of the Department for children, schools and families and the LA
- there is a senior member of staff designated to take lead responsibility for dealing with child protection
- staff attend relevant training
- any deficiencies or weaknesses with regard to child protection are remedied without delay
- a member of the Governing Body (at present the Chair) is nominated to be responsible for liaising with the LA.

#### The role of the Headteacher

The Headteacher has direct responsibility for co-ordinating any action that needs to be taken to protect the welfare and interest of a child. The Headteacher is the point of contact and the person who liaises directly with other agencies involved in the support and welfare of individual children

#### The role of other Staff

All staff should be alert to signs of abuse, whether it be neglect, physical injury, sexual abuse, or emotional abuse\*. Where there are any concerns for the welfare of a child the Headteacher should be notified at the earliest opportunity. Any suspected cases of child abuse will be referred to the social services department or to the police.

#### Implementation of this policy

Any child who is or has been placed on the child protection register is closely monitored by all involved with them. The Headteacher will share such information that may be needed to protect the child from any incident of abuse or further abuse. The school provide any reports that are requested to inform case conferences. The school makes every effort to ensure that the child is represented by a member of staff at any case conference that is held.

During the course of the academic year, opportunities are taken through the normal teaching programme to build all the children's awareness of the dangers that surround them. Children are encouraged to be aware of things that they can do in order to protect themselves. Liaison with the police force will take place where appropriate and talks may be given to the children about such themes as 'stranger danger'. The school takes part in a local Child Safe Programme. As part of this programme, anything of a suspicious nature (e.g. strangers remaining at school gates for long periods of time or entering school premises) is reported to all local schools. Any reports of children being exposed to danger or threats to child safety are reported by the Headteacher to a number of other educational establishments within the area. The Headteacher of the establishments that are contacted will in their turn, then contact other schools. The LA contact person is informed as soon as school is alerted of a possible problem existing within the area.

In dealing with any suspected case of child abuse the Headteacher takes note of any advice and guidance offered as to the procedures that must be followed in cases where child abuse is suspected. These Guidelines

are to be found in the Inter Agency Child Protection Handbook which has been produced by the Wolverhampton Area Child Protection Committee (ACPC). (A copy of this handbook is available both in the staff room and the Headteacher's office). The Headteacher attends relevant training in these procedures from time to time and provides all other staff with suitable guidance about them.

### Complex and Professional Abuse

The Headteacher and Governing Body will also have regard to Department for children, schools and families guidance on preventing unsuitable people from working with children\*\*

If any concern arises about an adult, including volunteers, working within the school this will be investigated\*\*\*. Teachers and other educational professionals are subject to inter-agency procedures managed by the ACPC in the same way as any other agency's staff. Such concerns might include

- Allegations of the use of physical punishments, the inappropriate use of 'restraint' or other behaviour which may result in physical or emotional harm to a child, outside the boundaries of 'reasonable force' in accordance with school policy.
- Staff who are identified as users of child pornography or about whom there are concerns because of their behaviour outside school, e.g. in other children's settings such as a club or group, or within their own family etc., (Physical abuse and sexual abuse)
- Allegations of sexual offences involving pupils under 18 or an 'abuse of trust', indecent assaults, unlawful sexual intercourse, 'grooming' etc.
- Behaviour by staff which infringes professional standards and puts children at risk of harm, eg forming inappropriate relationships, meeting pupils outside school without good reason etc (potential abuse of trust).

Allegations of the use of physical punishments, the inappropriate use of 'restraint' or other behaviour which may harm a child physically or emotionally, outside the boundaries of 'reasonable force'\*\*\*\*

Additional guidance may be gained from guidelines on child abuse issued by the Diocese\*\*\*\*\*.

Should anyone have any queries or concerns or need any clarification of the issues raised in this policy about child protection at St Michael's School please do not hesitate to contact the Headteacher.

*\*Protecting Children from Abuse DfEE Circular 10/95*

*\*\* Child Protection: Preventing Unsuitable People from Working with Children and Young Persons in the Education Service (DfES/0278/2002)*

*\*\*\*Working Together to Safeguard Children: A guide to inter-agency working to safeguard and promote the welfare of children, (1999) Home Office, Department of Health, Department for Education and Employment, available from TSO or website [www.the-stationeryoffice.co.uk/doh/worktogether](http://www.the-stationeryoffice.co.uk/doh/worktogether).*

*\*\*\*\*see school policy ' Policy on the Use of Physical Force to Control or Restrain Pupils'*

*\*\*\*\*\* Guidelines for Child Abuse for Birmingham Diocese (revised February 1996)*

Policy previously revised 27 May 2002

7 June 2004 and annually thereafter.

This review

9<sup>th</sup> October 2012

Signed .....Chair of the Governing Body