



St. Vincent's Catholic Primary School

Child Protection Statement

Introduction

At St. Vincent's Catholic Primary School, we accept responsibility for the pupils in our care. We promote welfare and safeguard their integrity: the children's well-being is our principal concern.

Responsibility

Where child abuse may be taking place, the school will attempt to give support to the parties involved but our first priority must always be the welfare of our pupils. Should abuse be suspected, or should incidents of abuse be disclosed to a staff member, the matter will be referred to Social Services without delay or hesitation. This must be done even if the suspicion proves to be groundless and the referral cause distress to the affected parties. Even so, this action is better than allowing real abuse to persist and, with safeguarding as our priority, this should enable co-operation to be maintained.

Implementing Procedure

Our way of proceeding is in line with the procedure of the Area Child protection Committee and the Newcastle Guidelines for Educational Service.

Structure and Staff Roles

The Headteacher, Ms Ness, will be the key person with ultimate responsibility. The designated persons will be Ms Ness, Mrs Burdon and Mrs Watson. The nominated Safeguarding Governor will be Mrs Dack. When alerted to an incident, or suspicion of an incident, they will take any action necessary. This will include seeking advice from Clennell Education Services – Safeguarding specialists, informing the Senior Educational Welfare Officer, liaising with E.W.O. for advice, pursuing any necessary inquiries and consultation, and deciding on any required action.

Process

Any member of staff who suspects or is made aware of or to whom disclosure of abuse is made must communicate that **suspicion or information** to the designated person. As soon as a staff member learns of such abuse he/she should make a brief written record and pass this on to the designated person.

Confidentiality

Unless the designated person is the one to whom the incident is disclosed, there cannot be total confidentiality since it is the designated person who has to know, consult, inform and act. The pupil, however, can be assured that only the persons who need to know will come to know of the disclosure.

Records

Any information disclosed is to be kept securely by the designated person. It must be dated and properly recorded.

Training

The designated person and the responsible person are to be experienced in pastoral care and counselling and be available for any relevant help which may be provided by competent bodies. Training needs of staff will be reviewed on a regular basis.