



Ysgol Gymunedol Plascrug Community Primary School

Child Protection Policy/ Safeguarding

Introduction

This school believes that every child has the right to live and grow, emotionally and educationally within a safe environment, in accordance with 'Every Child Matters' agenda.

At Plascrug we believe in and fully recognise our responsibilities for child protection.

This policy applies to all staff, governors and volunteers working in the school at any time.

Aims and Objectives

The aims of the policy are:

- to establish a safe environment in which children can learn and develop.
- to ensure we practice safe recruitment of staff by checking the suitability of all staff and volunteers working with our children.
- to raise awareness of child protection issues and equip children with the skills needed to keep them safe.
- to develop and consequently implement procedures for identifying and reporting cases, or suspected cases of abuse.
- to support pupils who have been abused in accordance with his/her agreed child protection plan.

The Safe Environment

At Plascrug we recognise that because of the day to day contact we have with our children, 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 at all times.
- ensure children know that there are adults in the school whom they can approach if they are worried.
- include opportunities in the PSE curriculum for children to develop the skills they need to keep them safe from abuse.
- provide access to relevant contact names and addresses e.g. Childline.

Guidance and Procedures

The school will rigorously follow the All Wales Child Protection Procedures 2008, produced on behalf of all Local Safeguarding Children Boards in Wales by:

- ensuring we have a designated teacher, “responsible person” for child protection, and a head teacher, who has received appropriate training and support for this role.
- ensuring we have a nominated governor responsible for child protection.
- ensuring members of the Governing Body receive Child Protection training
- ensuring every member of staff, governor and volunteer knows the name of the named “responsible person” and the nature of their role.
- ensuring all staff and volunteers understand their responsibilities in being alert to the signs of abuse and their responsibility for referring any concerns to the named “responsible person.”
- ensuring that parents have an understanding of the responsibility placed on the school and staff by setting out our obligations in the school prospectus.
- being aware of unexplained absences of any child in our care.
- notifying Social Services of any unexplained absence, of more than two days, of a pupil who is on the Child Protection Register, or a week’s absence of any other child.

Outside Agencies

The Headteacher who is the named “responsible person” will develop effective links with relevant agencies and co-operate as required with their enquiries regarding all child protection matters.

The “responsible person” will keep written records of concerns about children will whenever possible attend and make a valuable contribution to case conferences.

Keeping of Records

The named “responsible person” will keep written records of concerns about children even where there is no need to refer the matter immediately.

All records will be kept secure, separate from the main pupil file in a locked location in the Headteacher’s office.

Support and Guidance for Pupils

At Plascrug we recognise that children who are abused, or witness violence, may find it difficult to develop a sense of self-worth and may experience feelings of helplessness, humiliation and some sense of blame.

We recognise that the school environment maybe the only stable, secure and predictable factor in their lives.

We recognise that their behaviour at school may, as a result of their experiences, be challenging and defiant or they may become withdrawn.

At Plascrug we will endeavour to support each pupil through:

- our whole school ethos which promotes a positive, supportive and secure environment and gives pupils a sense of self-worth.
- the school behaviour policy which is aimed at supporting vulnerable pupils.

- ensuring that each “abused” child knows that some forms of behaviour are unacceptable but that they themselves are valued and should not carry any blame for the abuse that has occurred.
- the content of the curriculum.
- liason with other agencies, Social Services, CAMHS or Psychological services who are able to provide support for the child.
- ensuring that when a pupil on the Child Protection Register leaves, their information is transferred to the new school and that their social worker is informed.

Chair of Governors: _____

Headteacher: _____

Date: _____ Review date: _____