

## ALYWN INFANT SCHOOL CHILD PROTECTION POLICY

Alwyn Infant School fully recognises its responsibilities for child protection.

**Our policy applies to all staff, governors and volunteers working in the school. There are five main elements to our policy:**

- Ensuring we practice safe recruitment in checking the suitability of staff and volunteers to work with children (reference to Safeguarding children and safer recruitment in education, Jan 2007 (updated March 2013))
- Raising awareness of child protection issues and equipping children with the skills needed to keep them safe.
- Developing and then implementing procedures for identifying and reporting cases, or suspected cases, of abuse.
- Supporting pupils who have been abused in accordance with his/her agreed child protection plan.
- Establishing a safe environment in which children can learn and develop.

**We recognise that because of the day-to-day contact with children, school 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.
- Ensure children know that there are adults in the school whom they can approach if they are worried.
- Include opportunities in the PSHE and SEAL curriculums for children to develop the skills they need to recognise and stay safe from abuse.

**We will follow the procedures set out by the Local Safeguarding Children Board (LSCB) and take account of guidance issue by the DCSF to:**

- Ensure we have a designated teacher for child protection who has received the appropriate training and support for this role and that regular training is undertaken (every 2 years)
- Ensure we have a nominated governor responsible for child protection who has received the appropriate training and support for this role and that regular training is undertaken (every 2 years)
- Ensure every member of staff and governor knows the name of the designated teacher responsible for child protection and their role. (*Miss Cale - Headteacher*) This is referenced in the staff handbook.
- Ensure all governors have an Enhanced Disclosure from the Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) and ensure all have signed a declaration confirming their suitability to fulfill the role.
- Ensure up to date records are kept of all Disclosure and Barring Service registration numbers for all Governors, Staff and External Volunteers visiting the school.

- Ensure all staff and volunteers understand their responsibilities in being alert to the signs of abuse and responsibilities for referring any concerns to the designated teacher responsible for child protection.
- Ensure that parents have an understanding of the responsibility placed on the school and staff for child protection by allowing them access to all policies including this one.
- Notify social care if there is an unexplained absence of more than two days of a pupil who is subject to a child protection plan.
- Develop effective links with relevant agencies and co-operate as required with their enquires regarding child protection matters including attendance at case conferences
- Ensure all records are kept securely; separate from main pupil files and in locked locations.
- Develop and then follow procedures where an allegation is made against a member of staff or volunteer,
- Ensure safe recruitment practices are always followed (reference to Safeguarding children and safer recruitment in education, Jan 2007 (updated March 2013))

**We recognise that children who are abused or witness violence may find it difficult to develop a sense of worth. They may feel helplessness, humiliation and some sense of blame. The school may be the only stable, secure and predictable element in the lives of children at risk. When at school their behaviour may be challenging and defiant or they may be withdrawn. The school will endeavour to support the pupil through:**

- The content of the curriculum
- The school ethos, which promotes a positive, supportive and secure school environment and gives pupils a sense of being valued.
- The school behaviour policy, which is aimed at supporting vulnerable pupils in the school. The school will ensure that the pupil knows that some behaviour is unacceptable but they are valued and not to be blamed for any abuse which has occurred.
- Liaison with other agencies that support the pupil such as social care, Child and Adult Mental Health Service, education welfare service and educational psychology service.
- Ensuring that, when a pupil subject to a child protection plan leaves the school, their information is transferred to the new school immediately and that the child's social worker is informed.