



RIVERSIDE SCHOOL GUIDE TO GOOD PRACTICE MANUAL

CHILD PROTECTION POLICY

Riverside School recognises that it has a responsibility to protect the children in its care. The policy applies to all Staff, Board Members and volunteers working in the school.

There are five main elements to the policy:

- Ensuring we practise safe recruitment in checking the suitability of staff and volunteers to work with children.
- 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 students 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 specific areas of the curriculum for children to develop the skills they need to recognise and stay safe from abuse.

We will take account of guidance issued by the Department for Education and Skills to:

- Ensure we have a designated member of staff who has received appropriate training and support for this role.
- Ensure we have a nominated Board Member responsible for child protection.
- Ensure every member of staff, volunteer and Board Member knows the names of the members of the Child Protection Committee and their role.
- Ensure all staff and volunteers understand their responsibilities in being alert to the signs of abuse and responsibility for referring any concerns to the designated staff members responsible for child protection.
- Ensure that parents have an understanding of the responsibility placed on the school and staff for child protection by setting out its responsibility in the Parent Handbook.
- Develop effective links with relevant agencies and co-operate as required with their enquiries regarding child protection matters including attendance at case conferences.
- Keep written records of concerns about children, even where there is no need to refer the matter immediately.
- Ensure all records are kept securely; separate from the main pupil file, and in locked locations.



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CHILD PROTECTION POLICY (cont.)

- Develop and then follow procedures where an allegation is made against a member of staff or volunteer.
- Ensure safe recruitment practices are always followed.

We recognise that children who are abused or witness violence may find it difficult to develop a sense of self 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 environment and gives students a sense of being valued.
- The school code of conduct 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 student.
- Ensuring that, where a pupil on the child protection register leaves, their information is transferred to the new school immediately.

The Riverside School Child Protection Committee shall include the following members:

Peter Daish	Chair, Director and Board Member
Graeme Chisholm	Primary School Child Protection Representative
Trevor Marshall	High School Child Protection Representative
Ben King	School Nurse