

Colleges Nursery and Family Centre

Supporting Vulnerable Children Guidance

Colleges Nursery and Family Centre is committed to safeguarding and promoting the well being of all its pupils.

Personal, Social and Emotional Development

“We understand the importance of PSED for all areas of learning. We use their observations and assessment of children to inform planning for next steps in learning. In doing this, the staff are demonstrating empathy and a whole-centre commitment to inclusive practice.” Adapted from National Strategies, Social and Emotional Aspects of Development, DCSF.

If an adult is concerned about a child they must bring it to the attention of the Designated Person immediately or as soon as possible.

Child protection:

If upon discussion with the Designated Person for Child Protection it is a child protection issue (see Appendix 1), then the member of staff will be asked to complete a Concern Form and return it to the Designated Person. The welfare of the child will be monitored and further evidence collected. Where the safety of the child is in doubt or there is clear evidence that the child is at risk a referral to Social Care will be made in accordance with the Safeguarding Children Policy.

Any adult who has concerns and wants to seek advice should call the Cambridge Advice line on **01223 712096** with a “what if.. “ question.

The Designated Person will follow the Child Protection procedure as set out in The Local Authorities Child Protection Policy – Blue Book.

If a child makes an allegation against a member of staff, then the child protection procedures in the Blue Book must also be followed and the Local Authority contacted.

If the member of staff later has concerns that the child protection procedure is not being followed, then they follow the child protection whistle blowing policy and the Child Protection Governor will be informed or the Chair of Governors.

Other concerns:

Children may be vulnerable at various times in their lives and may need a variety of support. Our PSED policy emphasises the importance we attach to emotional well being. These issues may resolve or be temporary according to their home circumstances/health. Adults may become aware of difficulties at home and should deal with these sensitively and within confidentiality boundaries. Concerns should be discussed with the Designated Person and logged. Child protection issues may arise for any child, but some of the risk factors include:

- A child has a disability
- A child has a medical condition
- SEN
- Poverty
- Mental health issues within the family

- Domestic violence
- Family break up or changes
- Bereavement or trauma
- The family are asylum seekers
- The parents are very young or have learning needs

If upon discussion with the Designated Person it is a child in need of additional support then the Designated Person will explore other issues and based on need include other agencies. Where one agency is involved a Single Agency Referral Form will be completed. If more than one agency is involved a Common Assessment Framework (CAF) will be completed. the CAF is used to assess what help a child or young person needs in addition to the normal support provided by their school. The CAF is used where:

- a child's needs are not clear
- or the help of two or more services is needed.

A discussion with permission from the parent is required except where sexual and/or physical abuse is suspected when child protection procedures would be followed.

Other agencies who could be contacted may include:

- Special Educational Needs Co-ordinator (SENCO) referral and assessments
- Health visitor
- Home visiting team
- Parent involvement worker
- Social care - if not a child protection referral a "child in need" meeting may be convened
- Education Welfare Officer
- Colleagues from mental health
- Family Learning (e.g. children's centre parenting groups)

Some services, support and advice can be accessed through the Children's Centre team. Where there is a mixed agency approach, a pre-CAF assessment will be undertaken by professional colleagues and parents, before a Common Assessment Framework is put in place.

A copy of the Local Authorities Child Protection Procedures "Blue book" and logging concerns forms can be found on the shelves in the staff room.

The Centre Behaviour Policy, Safeguarding Children Policy, SEN and Inclusion Policy, should be followed with regard to the individual circumstances and the child's needs.

Appendix 1

Designated Persons for Child Protection:

Helen Snow	Head teacher
Claire Ison	Childcare Manager
Jo Maxwell	Children's Centre Manager
SENCO	Gill Learmond

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