



CHILD PROTECTION POLICY

(adopted from Carmarthenshire LA Policy)

Introduction

Ysgol Tycroes fully recognises the contribution it makes to child protection.

There are three main elements to our policy:

- prevention through the teaching and pastoral support offered to pupils, and the use of preventative services, such as Team Around the Family (TAF) in schools
- procedures for identifying and reporting cases, or suspected cases, of abuse or harm. Because of our day-to-day contact with children school staff are well placed to observe the outward signs of abuse,
- support to pupils who are in need or who may have been abused.

Our policy applies to **all** staff, governors and volunteers working in the school. Learning support assistants, mid-day supervisors, caretakers, secretaries as well as teachers can be the first point of disclosure for a child.

Our school will annually review the policy and is committed to following any new guidance received from Carmarthenshire County Council or Welsh Government.

The Designated Senior Person(s) for child protection in this school is the Headteacher, Sally-Anne Watts. The Deputy Designated Person is the Deputy Headteacher, Matthew Stonham. The Designated Governor is Mr Calum Higgins (Chair).

Prevention

We recognise that high self-esteem, confidence, supportive friends and good lines of communication with a trusted adult help to safeguard pupils.

The school will therefore:

- Establish and maintain an ethos where children feel secure and are encouraged to talk, and are listened to
- Ensure children know that there are adults in the education setting whom they can approach if they are worried or in difficulty
- Include in the curriculum, activities and opportunities for relationships and sexuality education which equips children with the skills they need to stay safe from abuse and to know to whom to turn for help
- Include in the curriculum material that will help children develop realistic attitudes to the responsibilities of adult life, particularly with regard to childcare and parenting skills
- Build relationships with other agencies and ensure early and appropriate referrals for support and intervention are made before risks escalate
- Take a whole-school (setting) approach to well-being which will incorporate safeguarding and preventative measures to support children and families

Procedures

These should be followed in the event of a child protection disclosure/concern

We will follow the Wales Safeguarding Procedures that have been endorsed by the Local Safeguarding Children Board. The school will:

- Ensure it has a Designated Senior Person for child protection who has undertaken the appropriate training. **These people are the Headteacher, Sally-Anne Watts and the Deputy Headteacher, Matthew Stonham.**
- Recognise the role of the DSP and arrange support and training

Ensure every member of staff and every governor knows:

- The name of the DSP and their role, the local authority point of contact and the designated governor for safeguarding
- That they have an individual responsibility for reporting children at risk and protection concerns to social services, or to the police, within the timescales agreed with the Regional Safeguarding Board how to take forward those concerns when the DSP is unavailable
- Ensure that all members of staff are aware of the need to be alert to signs of abuse and neglect, and know how to respond to a learner who may disclose abuse or neglect
- Ensure that members of staff who are EWC registrants are aware of the *Code OF Professional Conduct and Practice for registrants with the Education Workforce Council* (see www.ewc.wales/site/index.php/en/fitness-to-practise/code-of-professional-conduct-and-practice-pdf.html) and the expectation within the Code that the registrant has regard to the safety and well-being of learners in their care and related content
- Ensure that parents/carers have an understanding of the responsibility placed on the school/college/education setting and staff for safeguarding and child protection by setting out its obligations in the school prospectus

Provide training for all staff so that they:

- Understand their personal responsibility
- Know the agreed local procedures and their duty to respond
- Are aware of the need to be vigilant in identifying cases of abuse and neglect
- Know how to support a child who discloses abuse or neglect
- Understand the role online behaviours may have in each of the above

The school should:

- Notify the Local Authority social services team if a learner on the child protection register is excluded, either for a fixed term or permanently
- Notify the Local Authority social services team if there is an unexplained absence of a learner on the child protection register of more than two days' duration from school (or one day following a weekend)
- Work to develop effective links with relevant agencies and cooperate as required with their enquiries regarding child protection matters, including attendance at initial review as well as child protection conferences and core groups and the submission of written reports to the conferences
- Keep written records of concerns about children using My Concern online reporting tool noting the date, event and action taken, even where there is no need to refer the matter to the local authority immediately
- Ensure all records are kept secure either using a secure online, LA endorsed platform and/or in locked locations
- Adhere to the procedures set out in the Welsh Government's *Disciplinary and Dismissal Procedures for School Staff: Revised guidance for governing bodies* (see gov.wales/disciplinary-and-dismissal-procedures-school-staff)
- Ensure that recruitment and selection procedures are made in accordance with Welsh Government's *Keeping learners safe* guidance
- Designate a governor for safeguarding who will oversee the school's Child Protection Policy and practice.

Supporting those at risk

We recognise that children/young people who are at risk, suffer abuse or experience violence may be deeply affected by this, and that Ysgol Tycroes may be the only stable, secure and predictable element in the lives of children at risk. Nevertheless, when at the school setting their behaviour may be challenging and defiant or they may be withdrawn.

Ysgol Tycroes will endeavour to support the learner through:

- The content of the curriculum to encourage self-esteem and self-motivation
- The ethos which promotes a positive, supportive and secure environment and gives learners a sense of being valued (see section 2 on Prevention)
- The Positive Behaviour and Discipline Policy which is aimed at supporting vulnerable pupils in the school. All staff will agree on a consistent approach that focuses on the behavioural outcome of the child but does not damage the individual's sense of self-worth. Ysgol Tycroes will endeavour to ensure that the learner knows that some behaviour is unacceptable but that they are valued and not to be blamed for any abuse which has occurred

- Liaison with other agencies who support the learner such as local authority officers – for example the Educational Psychology service, Behaviour Support services, Education Welfare Service, child and adolescent mental health services, and advocacy services
- Keeping records on My Concern and notifying the local authority as soon as there is a recurrence of a concern.

Local authorities, governing bodies and proprietors also need to be able to show they have considered whether children, including individual children, in their area have any specific safeguarding needs in addition to those covered by guidance. If so, they must have policies and procedures in place to meet those needs.

When a learner on the child protection register leaves, the school will work with the Local Authority to transfer information to the new provider immediately and inform social services.

All child protection referrals go to

Central Referral Team-

☎ 01554 742322

✉ CRTChildren@carmarthenshire.gov.uk

Out of hours – ☎ 0300 333 2222

In addition, the following officers will be able to advise when these situations arise.

Caryl Davies, School Safeguarding Officer (01554) 742369
Carylmdavies@carmarthenshire.gov.uk

Rebecca Copp, LA Designated Officer (01267) 246595
Rcopp@carmarthenshire.gov.uk

Anti-Bullying

Our Anti-Bullying Policy is set out in a separate document and is reviewed regularly by the governing body.

Physical Intervention

Our Physical Intervention Policy is set out in a separate document and is reviewed regularly by the governing body. It is consistent with the Welsh Government's guidance *Safe and effective intervention – use of reasonable force and searching for weapons*.

Children with Additional Learning Needs

We recognise that statistically children with additional learning needs are most at risk of abuse. Staff who work with children with an additional learning need, such as a profound and multiple disability, sensory impairment or emotional and behavioural problem, need to be particularly sensitive to signs of abuse.


Related Policies

This Child Protection Policy should be used in conjunction with a range of related policies and guidance documents to ensure the safeguarding of all the children, staff and wider school community. Related policies and guidance include:

- Active Travel to School
- Administration of Medicine
- Alcohol and Substance Misuse
- ALN
- Anti-Bullying
- Attendance
- Breach Reporting and Response
- Complaints
- Dignity and Respect at Work
- Dog Fouling and Dogs on Site
- Lockdown and Critical Incident Management
- Health and Safety
- Intimate Care and Changing
- Positive Behaviour
- Smoking
- E-Safety
- Whistleblowing
- Staff Disciplinary
- Sun Safety
- Handling personal Information
- Management of Sickness Absence
- Physical Intervention
- Preventing Radicalisation and Extremism
- Safer Recruitment
- First Aid
- Relationships and Sexuality Education
- Visitor Safeguarding Guide
- Child-friendly Safeguarding Guide

Policy Review

This policy will be reviewed in September 2023, or earlier if required.

Headteacher:		Date:	29th July 2022
Chair of Governing Body:		Date:	