



St Edward's Church of England
Primary School

Vulnerable Children Policy

October 2016



St. Edward's Church of England Primary School

VULNERABLE CHILDREN POLICY

1.0 PURPOSE

To provide direction to all school staff in the identification and support of vulnerable children in our care.

2.0 INTRODUCTION

It is the policy of St Edward's Primary School to follow the Havering Safeguarding Children Board's (Havering LSCB) child protection procedures which are outlined in the Child Protection and Safeguarding Policy. This policy is available on the school's website.

The procedures for dealing with suspected child protection issues are detailed in the Child Protection policy.

At St Edward's, the Designated Safeguarding Lead is Mrs Ellner, the Head Teacher. Mr Wright, Deputy Headteacher, Mrs Wedgwood, Learning Support and Inclusion Manger for Lower School and Mrs MacDonald, Home School Support Worker, complete the school safeguarding team

3.0 DEFINITION

We consider a vulnerable child to be a child who has been exposed to risk factors that may jeopardise their emotional health, general wellbeing, behaviour or motivation to learn.

These risk factors could include bereavement, separation, bullying, domestic violence, emotional and behavioural difficulties, looked after and accommodated children, children with disabilities, English as an additional language, minority groups, persistent absenteeism and persistent lateness, children underachieving academically and not working to their full potential.

4.0 AIMS

The aim of this policy is to ensure all school staff are aware of the key principles and legislation.

Safeguarding of children is everyone's business and schools have a responsibility under Section 175 of the Education Act 2002 to ensure that their functions are carried out with a view to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children.

This includes:

- preventing the impairment of children's health or development;
- protecting children from maltreatment;
- ensuring children grow up in circumstances consistent with the provision of safe and effective care.

The Children Act 1989 defines a child as being up to the age of 18 years; it also defines significant harm and the roles and responsibilities of Children's Social Care and the Police.

Legislation related to safeguarding in schools - 'Keeping Children Safe in Education' (May 2016).

Other important documents:

- The Children Act 1989 and 2004
- Education Act 2002
- The Education (Health Standards) (England) Regulations 2003
- The Further Education (Providers of Education) (England) (Regulations) 2006
- The Education (Pupil Referral Units) (Application of Enactments) (England) Regulations 2007, as amended by SI 2010/1919, SI 2012/1201, SI 2012/1825, SI 2012/3158
- The School Staffing (England) Regulations 2009 as amended by SI 2012/1740 and SI 2013/1940
- The Education (Non-Maintained Special Schools) (England) Regulations 2011 as amended by SI 2015/387
- The Education (School Teachers' Appraisal) (England) Regulations 2012
- The Children and Families Act 2014
- The Education (Independent School Standards) Regulations 2014

This policy, as well as the Safeguarding and Child Protection Policy and all associated procedures apply to all paid staff, volunteers and governors working with or in St Edward's School.

5.0 IDENTIFYING AND SUPPORTING VULNERABLE CHILDREN

The school aims to provide support to meet the needs of all pupils and their families. As a school we want to support the strengths and weaknesses of the 'whole family'

Integrated practice identifies and supports vulnerable children. Mrs Ellner, Head Teacher, keeps records of vulnerable children and works alongside staff to identify and support those children who have been identified as being 'vulnerable'. The records are kept in the Head Teacher's office and must not leave this office unless permission has been given.

All class teachers know who are the vulnerable children are in their class and all other adults, working with the children, are also made aware. Cases where there are serious

concerns are immediately referred to Mrs Ellner, Head Teacher or, in her absence, to Mr Wright or Mrs Wedgwood.

The named Governor for Looked after Children and for vulnerable pupils is Mrs Esther Harry.

We recognise that, statistically, children with behavioural difficulties and disabilities are most vulnerable to abuse. Staff who work, in any capacity with disabilities, sensory impairment and/or emotional and behaviour problems will need to be particularly sensitive to signs of abuse.

It is also recognised that children who are Looked After or have a parent or close relative in prison or at risk of custodial sentence are a particularly vulnerable group who need additional support.

It must also be stressed that in a home environment where there is domestic violence, drug or alcohol abuse, children may also be vulnerable and in need of support or protection.

The school works closely with external agencies, such as Children's Social Care and local charities, to support vulnerable children and their families. The safeguarding team meets at fortnightly intervals, throughout the school year, to review the needs of the vulnerable people known to the school and to identify appropriate agencies to support them, including our Home School Support Worker, Mrs MacDonald.

It is important to note that this policy dealing with vulnerable children should be considered alongside other related policies in school. These include:

- Safeguarding and Child Protection Policy;
- Behaviour Policy;
- Anti-Bullying Policy;
- SEN Policy;
- Attendance Policy
- Equality and Diversity Policy

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Approved by Head Teacher:

Head Teacher

Date