

YSGOL Y FORYD
CHILD PROTECTION AND SAFEGUARDING POLICY
2016



Child Protection Co-ordinator: 1. Mrs B Jones

Second C.P. Co-ordinator: 2. Mrs N Rowlands

Third C.P. Co-ordinator: 3. Mrs S Stockford

Child Protection Designated Governors: 1. Rev Gwyn Parry

2. Cllr Bill Darwin

At Ysgol y Foryd we firmly believe that:

- all children are entitled to protection from abuse, neglect and exploitation.
- the welfare of all our children is paramount.
- working constructively together with personnel from different agencies is important.
- it's important to work in partnership with families - providing support to parents and carers is vital for the protection of our children.
- parents are to be afforded the right to honest, full information as appropriate and the opportunity to express their view and challenge actions.
- child protection is non-discriminatory, avoiding discrimination against any person on the grounds of race, sex or any other improper ground.
- due consideration is given to a child's religious persuasion, cultural and linguistic background.
- due regard is given to the vulnerability of children with any disability, additional learning needs or communication difficulties.
- people who are given responsibility for protecting children are afforded appropriate supervision, support and training.

Designated Person

The designated person who ensures that the correct child protection procedures are followed at Ysgol y Foryd is the Acting Headteacher, Mrs Bethan Jones. In her absence, responsibility is with Mrs Nicola Rowlands. Where abuse is suspected or alleged, all staff should report the information to the designated person, who will decide whether to refer the case to investigating agencies in accordance with the procedures established by Conwy. At Ysgol Y Foryd we have developed an excellent inter-agency approach to child protection by developing good liaison with Social Services, Conwy L.A.C. officer, E.W.O. (Educational Welfare Officer), School Nurse, Police and L.A..

At Ysgol y Foryd we recognise that because of the day to day contact with individual children, teachers and other staff are particularly well placed to observe outward signs of abuse or changes in behaviour.

Definition of Child Abuse

A child or young person up to the age of 18 years can suffer abuse or neglect.

A child is abused or neglected when somebody inflicts harm, or fails to act to prevent harm.

YSGOL Y FORYD'S CHILD PROTECTION AND SAFEGUARDING PROCEDURES

(These are displayed in school for all staff and visitors' information).

Confidentiality

Child protection raises issues of confidentiality that should be clearly understood by all staff. A child's trust can place heavy responsibility on teachers, particularly if the child does not want the information disclosed. Staff have a responsibility to share relevant information about the protection of children with other professionals, particularly investigative agencies. If a child confides in a member of staff and requests that the information is kept secret, it is important that the member of staff tells the child sensitively that the matter will be discussed with people who need to know about it and that they will treat the matter confidentially. It is essential that staff do not make promises of confidentiality that they may not be able to keep. Staff should be aware that the way in which they respond to a child could affect the validity of the evidence that may be put forward if there are criminal proceedings. The chief task at this stage is to listen to the child. It is inappropriate to enquire into the details of the abuse, nor should the child be asked to repeat the story.

Having established that there is cause for concern, the designated Child Protection Co-ordinator should report the matter to Social Services. It is important to remember to:

- take what the child says seriously.
- react calmly.
- explain to the child what will happen next.
- check that you are clear about what the child is telling you.
- keep any questions to a minimum and never lead the child.
- use the words the child uses.

Recording Disclosures

Brief but clear notes are made in the class log book. These original notes are kept. The notes from the meeting will be written up to and include the date, time and place; any noticeable non-verbal behaviour and the words used by the pupil, plus a diagram, if appropriate, to record the site of any bruising. Staff record exactly what has been shared with them, without drawing any assumptions, or making any judgements. They are signed and shared with the Headteacher.

Case Conference Reports

Reports prepared for any case conferences are completed by the Headteacher in liaison with staff using an appropriate format. The Headteacher will attend child protection case conferences as/when necessary. In cases of alleged child abuse, which goes to court, the court may require us to provide our child protection records. Hence, the Child Protection Sheets are retained. The Education (Schools Records) Regulations 1989 (SI No. 1261) which allows parents access to school records, do not require the disclosure to them of any information in relation to the protection of children against child abuse. This includes information relating to actual or suspected abuse. Child Protection Sheets thus remain confidential to the school.

Children on the Child Protection Register

Social Services will inform the Headteacher if a pupil's name has been placed on (or removed from) the Child Protection Register (CPR). When a child on the C.P.R. changes school, we will transfer the information to the child's new school immediately and inform the custodian of the Child Protection Register.

Monitoring Pupils

Ysgol y Foryd monitors carefully any child who is suspected of suffering abuse, neglect or is on the C.P. register. Staff are vigilant in detecting any signs which suggest a deterioration in the child's home circumstances.

Parents

In certain circumstances, parents will be informed as soon as possible about any concerns with their child. However there are times when this is not possible (when the perpetrator lives within the family home) for example. The immediate action of the school is to contact Social Services and make them aware of both the concern and details of facts which might involve the alleged abuser living in the family home. The Headteacher will make Social Services aware of these matters. All staff have read this policy and discussed it's content at length. Child Protection training is provided for all staff and annual enhanced training is provided for CP co-ordinators. The last whole school training attended by staff and governors was held 6th October 2015 and another course will be held Autumn 2016 - date to be confirmed.

Signed: _____ B Jones _____ Acting Headteacher

Signed: _____ G Parry _____ Chair of Governors

Review Date: _____ September 2017