



## **Child Protection Policy**

### **1 Introduction**

- 1.1** All children are made in God's image, for an eternal destiny. They have the right to grow up unharmed, to have the opportunity to develop fully, and to have their basic needs met.
- 1.2** The health, safety and well-being of all our pupils are therefore of paramount importance to all the adults who work in Our Lady of Lourdes School. Our pupils have the right to protection, regardless of faith, age, gender, race, culture or disability. They have the right to be safe in our school.
- 1.3** In our school we respect our pupils. The atmosphere within our school is one that encourages all children to do their best. We provide opportunities that enable our pupils to make decisions for themselves.
- 1.4** Our presentation of the Catholic faith, and our teaching of religion and of moral values, together with personal, social, health and citizenship education as part of the National Curriculum, help to develop appropriate attitudes in our pupils and to make them aware of the impact of their decisions on others. We also teach them how to recognise different risks in different situations, and how to behave in response to those risks.

### **2 Aims and objectives**

- 2.1** We aim to ensure that all the staff in our school are clear about the actions necessary should an issue of child protection arise. The objectives of this Policy are:
  - to raise the awareness of all staff, and to make clear to them their responsibility for reporting possible cases of abuse according to the procedures set out in this Policy;
  - when an issue of child protection arises, to ensure effective communication among all staff as necessary, with proper attention to the need for confidentiality;
  - to lay down the correct procedures for those who encounter an issue of child protection.

### **3 Procedures**

- 3.1** There is a named teacher in our school, designated by the Head Teacher, who is the school's Child Protection Co-ordinator. (At present, that teacher is Mrs Brigid Quinn.)
- 3.2** If any teacher suspects that a child in his/her class may be a victim of abuse, the teacher will immediately inform the school's Child Protection Co-ordinator about his/her concerns. Abuse can be of a sexual, emotional or physical nature. It can also be the result of neglect.
- 3.3** Any action taken by the school's Child Protection Co-ordinator when dealing with an issue of child protection will be in accordance with the Child Protection Procedures of the Area Child Protection Committee of Oxfordshire County Council, and prompt reference will be made accordingly to the County Council's Education Officer for Attendance and Re-Integration (Lead Officer for Child Protection); and if the matter



affects or could affect the parish community, the Birmingham Diocesan Child Protection Team will also be informed, and requested to provide guidance.

- 3.4** As the interest of the child is of paramount importance, all parties involved are to handle any necessary enquiries and investigations in a sensitive manner.
- 3.5** If a child alleges abuse, the school's Child Protection Co-ordinator, in consultation with the Head Teacher and the teacher concerned, may consider that a direct approach to the child's parents should be made in the first instance. It may however be necessary in some cases to refer an allegation immediately to the County Council's Education Officer for Attendance and Re-Integration (Lead Officer for Child Protection), in the manner set out in para. 3.3 and para. 3.4 above, without reference to the parents.
- 3.6** If a child protection referral is made, school staff will attend and participate as appropriate in all case-conferences and meetings in the matter which may be held as required in accordance with the County Council's Child Protection Procedures.
- 3.7** As all information is confidential which relates to any case in which abuse of a particular child has been alleged, we will give such information only as appropriate, and only to appropriate persons.
- 3.8** The Governors will arrange for information about all those whom they are considering for employment at the school to be provided to the Criminal Records Bureau, so as to reveal any evidence that may be held by that Bureau of criminal offences by such candidates involving children or of the abuse of children by such candidates.
- 3.9** There may be times when adults working at our school will in the course of their duty use physical intervention to restrain children. The Head Teacher will require the adult(s) involved in any such incident to report the matter to him/her immediately, and to record it in the relevant behaviour management file, in accordance with the school's Policy on the use of force to control children.
- 3.10** All those employed to work at the school will receive regular training to raise their awareness of child abuse and their knowledge of the locally-agreed child-protection procedures.
- 3.11** If there are any cases in which Child Protection Officers have become involved, the Head Teacher will report the fact to the Governing Body.

#### **4 Monitoring and review**

- 4.1** A named Governor or named Governors will participate in the training of school staff with regard to child-protection procedures (para. 3.10), and in other training in this matter according to opportunity.
- 4.2** This Policy will be reviewed by the Governing Body every two years.

**Signed by the Chair of Governors .....**

**Signed by the Head Teacher .....**

Date .....

Review Date .....

