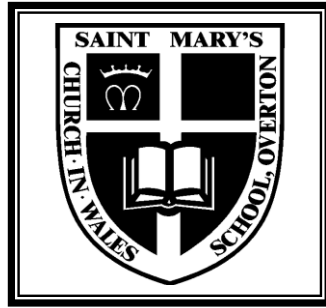


ST. MARY'S
CHURCH AIDED SCHOOL



CHILD PROTECTION POLICY

Introduction

The health, safety and well-being of all our children are of paramount importance to all the adults who work in our school. Our children have the right to protection, regardless of age, gender, race, culture or disability. They have a right to be safe in our school.

In our school we respect our children. The atmosphere within our school is one that encourages all children to do their best. We provide opportunities that enable our children to take and make decisions for themselves.

Our teaching of personal, social and health education and citizenship, as part of the National Curriculum, helps to develop appropriate attitudes in our children and makes 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 them.

The school recognizes that, as staff are in regular and frequent contact with children, they are particularly well placed to observe signs of abuse or unexplained changes in behaviour or performance, which may be indicative of it. Therefore, the school aims to be diligent in its efforts to look after each child's welfare and well-being.

Child abuse is actual harm to a child aged below 18 years, whether caused by default, or a deliberate act. The harm may be to the standard of health, development or well being which can be reasonably expected for that child. (Definition of Child Abuse AWCPP Revised 2008)

Aims and objectives

This policy ensures that all staff in our school are clear about the actions necessary with regard to a child protection issue. Its aims are:

- to raise the awareness of all staff and identify responsibility in reporting possible cases of abuse;
- to ensure effective communication between all staff when dealing with child protection issues;
- to lay down the correct procedures for those who encounter an issue of child protection.

Procedures

If someone tells you that they or another child or young person is being abused:

- Show that you have heard what he/she is saying, and that you take his/her allegations seriously.
- Encourage the child to talk, but do not prompt or ask leading questions.
- Explain what actions you must take.
- Do not give an undertaking of absolute confidentiality as staff have a responsibility to disclose information to those who need to know.
- Write down what you have been told, using the exact words if possible.
- Make a note of the date, time, place and people who were present at the discussion.
- Report your concerns to your line manager or (if appropriate) the member of staff in your organization with designated responsibility for child protection.
- Ensure that your concerns are immediately reported to the duty social worker at the local office (CAFAT 01978 292039).
- Do not confront the alleged abuser.

If a child is likely to suffer harm it is essential that urgent action is taken under the child protection procedures. These procedures are outlined in The All Wales Child Protection Procedures and the local protocol is ratified by the LSCB (Booklet-All Wales Child Protection Procedures-Schools-Revised 2008).

When abuse is alleged or suspected the school will adopt the following procedure:

- There is a designated Child Protection Co-coordinator in the school, Mr. G Wyn-Jones (Headteacher) who will be **immediately** informed, or in the case of his absence, Mr. D Morris (Deputy Headteacher)
- The person informed will refer information to CAFAT, Safeguarding and Support Services, (and inform the Educational Social Worker, and school nurse), on the **same day**
- The person informed will complete Child Protection Form/Common Referral Form and send or fax it to CAFAT – within **24 hours**, or at the earliest opportunity, following consultation with appropriate agencies.
- Take advice from CAFAT before communicating with parents.
- Attend case conferences as requested.

WHERE IT IS ALLEGED ABUSE HAS TAKEN PLACE INVOLVING A MEMBER OF STAFF:

The following procedures will be followed:

- The Headteacher or Deputy in his or her absence should be notified immediately.
(If the allegation involves the Headteacher you may have a confidential interview with the named officer for child protection for schools i.e.ESW Team Manager).
- All suspected abuse must be reported to Safeguarding and Support.

- A senior Education Officer will be informed.
- The Chair of Governors (Mr John McCusker) will be consulted as the nominated Child Protection and Safeguarding Governor. Mrs Julie Done and Mrs Sandra Jones act as the named Child Protection and Safeguarding Governors in his absence.
- “Agencies must not undertake their own internal enquiries but must refer on as described above. Agencies must not make their own decisions about whether a concern that involves a particular member of their own staff is a disciplinary issue or a child protection issue. Such complex considerations should only take place with the involvement of Social Services and the Police”. All Wales Child Protection Procedures.

Definition of Child Abuse:

Somebody may abuse or neglect a child by inflicting harm, or by failing to act to prevent harm. Children may be abused in a family or in an institutional setting, by those known to them or, more rarely, by a stranger. A child or young person up to the age of 18 years can suffer abuse or neglect and require protection via an inter-agency child protection plan.

Role of the Child Protection Co-coordinator:

General Consideration:

Child Protection is a serious issue, particularly those who may be victims, potential victims or involved in support. Frequently situations do not appear ‘black or white’ and a tension often exists between agencies.

It would seem essential therefore, that the person nominated or appointed should have:

- a. A clear understanding of the importance of Child Protection and the role of the school.
- b. The ability to communicate effectively with other agencies and the ability to appreciate all relevant perspectives.
- c. The ability to relate well to pupils parents and colleagues in order to gain their confidence.
- d. Sufficient seniority or recognition within the school in order to act on behalf of the school and in some instances brings about change if required.
- e. A willingness to develop awareness of Child Protection, particularly through training and obtaining information available in existing and future circulars.

Specifically:

The role of the coordinator would include:

1. Ensuring that all members of staff are aware of the appropriate Child Protection Procedures and who the designated teacher is. This is particularly important for new staff.
2. Ensuring that the proper procedures are followed.
3. Liaison with other agencies over cases of alleged abuse and the promotion of cooperative working including attendance at Case Conferences.

4. Ensuring that the designated Senior LA Officer is aware of any breakdown in communication or problems with the implementation of local procedures.
5. Maintaining appropriate records regarding cases which cause concern and subsequent action taken.
6. Ensuring that ongoing monitoring exists for pupils having been the subject of child abuse concerns and/or, placed on the Child Protection Register and made the subject of a plan involving their school or facilities.

Neglect

Neglect is the persistent failure to meet a child's basic physical and/or psychological needs, likely to result in the serious impairment of the child's health or development. It may involve a parent or caregiver failing to provide adequate food, shelter and clothing, failing to protect a child from physical harm or danger, or the failure to ensure access to appropriate medical care or treatment. It may also include neglect of, or unresponsiveness to, a child's basic emotional needs. In addition, neglect may occur during pregnancy as a result of maternal substance misuse.

The school is always aware of the possibility of a child suffering neglect. When concerns are raised regarding neglect, the 'Neglect Practice Guidelines' and monitoring form will be implemented.
(See below).

Training

We require all adults employed in the school to have their application vetted through police records in order to ensure that there is no evidence involving children or abuse.

All adults in the school receive regular training to raise their awareness of abuse and their knowledge of agreed local child protection procedures. The Headteacher is named as the School's Child Protection Co-ordinator in the School Prospectus and in the Staff and Student Handbook. New and temporary staff are informed of the School's Child Protection procedures by the Headteacher and formal training is provided by Wrexham CBC.

Monitoring and review

This policy is reviewed annually by the governing body.

Declaration

This policy was approved by the School's Governing Body on: December 2013

Signed _____
Chairman of Governors

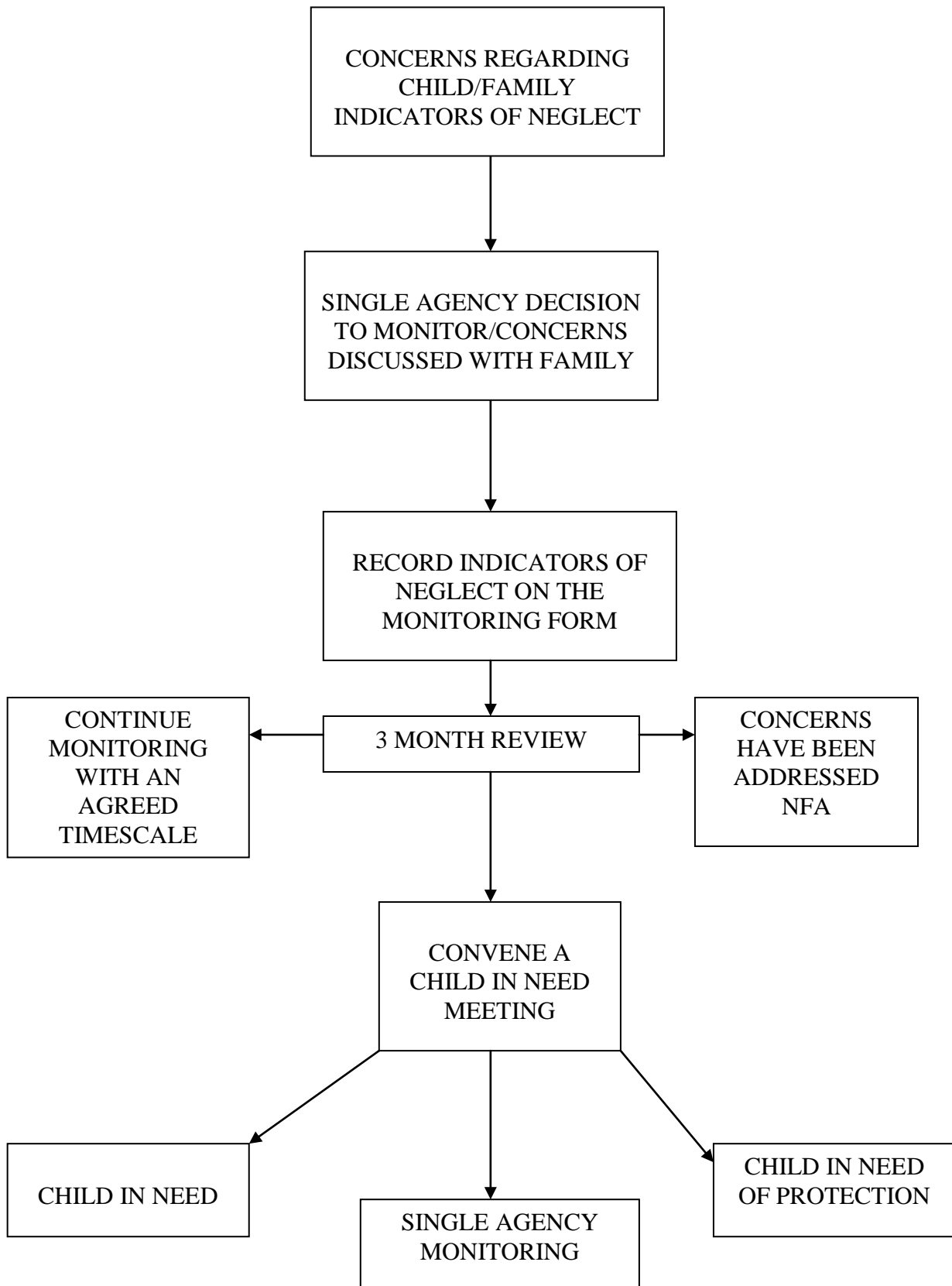
Date of Last Review: December 2012 (previous version),
December 2013 (new version)

Date to be Reviewed: December 2014

(Signed copy kept in office)

Appendix 1

	PHYSICAL SIGNS	BEHAVIOUR SIGNS
Physical neglect/ Emotional Abuse	Neglected appearance. Often left unattended/abandoned. Unattended health/medical needs. Failure to thrive/gain weight. Consistent hunger. Poor hygiene.	Delayed development. Lethargic, tired, falls asleep. Often absent or late to school. Self-destructive. Hopelessness. Desperate attention seeker. Steals food.
Physical Abuse	Unexplained or frequent trauma, such as <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Fractures, grazes, cuts ▪ Injuries of different ages ▪ Burns, cigarette or immersion ▪ Minor injuries, bruises especially to eyes or mouth Heavy punishment, eg severe bruises, multiple weals, hand-shaped marks.	Delay seeking medical advice. Hyper-critical/rigid parents. Chronic runaway. Afraid of going home. Unexplained or regular absences. Wary of physical contact. Complains of soreness. Behavioural extremes – withdrawn, wary or aggressive/disruptive.
Sexual Abuse	Sleep and eating disturbances. Medical problems, eg pain, itching, urinary infection, venereal disease. Pregnant. Sexual knowledge or curiosity or behaviour beyond child's years. Underclothes – torn, stained, bloody. Difficulty in walking or sitting – genital injuries	Reports abuse. Fear of particular individuals. Sudden change in personality or school performance or self-esteem. Aggression or unruly behaviour. Truancy. Depressed, withdrawn, sad, listless, self-injury, suicide attempts, overdoses, running away. Guilt, shame, anger.
<p>The above signs do not always indicate child abuse, but the possibility should be considered.</p> <p><i>If in doubt, share your concern without delay.</i></p>		



**SHOULD THERE BE CONCERNS OF A CHILD PROTECTION NATURE
THROUGHOUT THIS PROCESS CHILD PROTECTION PROCEDURES
SHOULD BE FOLLOWED.**

INCIDENT MONITORING FORM – ONLY FACTUAL INFORMATION TO BE RECORDED

NAME:

DOB:

ADDRESS:

DATE	INCIDENTS OF CONCERN/ POSITIVE EVENTS	PARENT RESPONSE CHILD'S COMMENTS	ACTION TAKEN	NAME AND SIGNATURE