



VENERABLE EDWARD MORGAN CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL

CHILD PROTECTION POLICY

This Document is a statement of intent within Venerable Edward Morgan. It was developed through a process of consultation with Key stakeholders and in correspondence with the School's planning and review schedule.

This sets out a framework by which to work.

Approved On:	25th September 2017
Next Review:	September 2018
Signed:	D L Mackie

“LOVE AND SUPPORT IN ALL WE ARE TAUGHT.”
“CARIAD A CHEFNOGAETH YM MHOPETH RHYDAN NI’N DDYSGU.”

Venerable Edward Morgan School

Child Protection Policy

In line with our school Mission Statement, we aim to create a happy, caring and secure environment for the children in our school. Pupils must feel that they are listened to and valued. We have a huge responsibility to promote their welfare, health, safety and guidance.

'The protection of children from harm is the responsibility of all individuals and agencies working with children and families, and with adults who may pose a risk to children'. (All Wales Child Protection Procedures 2008)

A child is abused or neglected when somebody inflicts harm, or fails to act to prevent harm. Children can be abused in a family or an institutional or community setting. They can be abused by someone known to them or, more rarely, by a stranger. A child can suffer abuse or neglect and require protection through an inter-agency protection plan.

The All Wales Child Protection Procedures file is located in the Headteacher's room. It is to be used as a reference for all staff. It is organised in 5 parts as follows:

1. Key Principles including definitions of abuse and neglect
2. Everyone's Responsibilities (pages 73-87)
3. The Child Protection Process
4. Specific Circumstances
5. Protocols in specific circumstances

It is the duty of all staff at Venerable Edward Morgan School to make sure they are aware of the different forms of child abuse.

These are:

1. Physical Abuse
2. Emotional Abuse
3. Sexual Abuse
4. Neglect
5. Significant harm – defined as ill treatment or the impairment of health and development.

All staff are requested to familiarise themselves with Pages 57-61 of the All Wales Child Protection Procedures 2008 (definitions of child abuse and neglect). This is to enable them to carry out their duty to report any concern. Any member of staff receiving information about abuse or having concerns about a pupil should **immediately pass this information to the Headteacher** who is the designated person for Child Protection (co-ordinator).

The role of the Child Protection Co-ordinator at Venerable Edward Morgan

- To make telephone referrals of all cases of suspected child abuse to Children's Services on 01352 701000

- School Inclusion Welfare Officer – Gill Howard 01352 732788 (SRG High School) or 07810 155074
- To send referral forms to Children's Services the same day – within 24 hours
- To ensure that all staff report any suspicion of child abuse to the Co-ordinator
- To attend training for Child Protection
- To ensure staff knowledge of procedures and organise training for staff
- To liaise with other relevant agencies
- To ensure on going monitoring of pupils having been the subject of any referrals
- To keep records of any disclosure/referral

Staff guidelines for responding to a Disclosure:

- Listen carefully to what the child is saying and take it seriously
- Keep calm and do not display shock or disapproval
- Tell the child it is not his/her fault
- Write down what the child said
- An initial disclosure, even if it is retracted, must be referred
- **Tell the Designated Person** (Co-ordinator, or Deputy Head if the Head is unavailable)
- The Deputy Head will liaise immediately or as soon as possible with the Headteacher if she is out of school at the time of a reported disclosure or concern. In any case she will act as the Designated Person and follow the set procedures above
- Make sure the child is safe (supported in school)
- Do not panic or rush off to discuss it with others, except the Headteacher
- Do not promise to keep secrets
- Do not make any judgements
- Do not ask detailed questions or press the child for more information
- Do not destroy any evidence

If there is any doubt then the concern should be reported

Our school procedures are in line with the All Wales Protection Procedures 2008 as well as Flintshire LEA guidelines – Flintshire Local Safeguarding Children's Board.

The designated adults and Governors for Child protection are Mrs R Langley, Mrs M Hughes, Mrs A Payton, Cllr D L Mackie and Mrs K Burns. It is the Governing Body's duty to ensure the policy is reviewed annually and any deficiencies within the policy addressed immediately. Governors and all staff have had appropriate child protection training.

CHILD PROTECTION POLICY

DEFINITIONS

Significant Harm

Under s31(9) of the children Act 1989:

harm means ill treatment or the impairment of health or development;

development means physical, intellectual, emotional, social or behavioural development;

health means physical or mental health; and

ill treatment includes sexual abuse and forms of ill treatment which are not physical.

Under s31(10) of the Act:

Where the question of the whether the harm suffered by a child is significant turns on the child's health and development, his health or development shall be compared with that which could reasonably be expected of a similar child.

(Working together 2000).

Physical Abuse

Physical abuse may involve hitting, shaking, throwing, poisoning, burning or scalding, drowning, suffocating, or otherwise causing physical harm to a child. Physical harm can also be caused when a parent or carer feigns the symptoms of, or deliberately causes ill health in and to a child whom they are looking after. (The situation is most recently described using the term fabricated or induced illness by carer).

Emotional Abuse

Emotional Abuse is the persistent emotional ill treatment of a child such as to cause severe and persistent adverse effects on the child's emotional development. It may involve conveying to a child that they are worthless or unloved, inadequate or valued only in so far as they meet the needs of another person. It may feature age or develop mentally inappropriate expectations being imposed on children. It may involve causing children frequently to feel frightened or in danger, or the exploitation or corruption of children. Some level of emotional abuse is involved in all types of ill treatment of a child, though it may occur alone.

Sexual Abuse

Sexual abuse involves forcing or enticing a child or young person to take part in sexual activities, whether or not the child is aware of what is happening. The activities may involve physical

contact, including penetrative or non-penetrative acts. They may include non contact activities, such as involving children in looking at, or in the production of, pornographic material or watching sexual activities, or encouraging children to behave in sexually inappropriate ways.

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 and development. It may involve a parent or carer 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.