

# Child Protection Information for Parents/Carers



## Christ the King Catholic Primary School

Here at Christ the King, we take Safeguarding very seriously. The protection of children is part of Safeguarding.

**Keeping the children in our care safe and free from harm is our highest priority.**

All children have the right to be protected from all forms of abuse. School staff have been provided with clear guidelines and procedures to follow in relation to child protection (Please see the Safeguarding & Child Protection Policy on our school website)

### **What is Child Protection about?**

- All children have the right to be protected from all forms of abuse and harm.
- Protecting children from harm is a major priority for the government, Islington Local Authority and Christ the King Catholic Primary School.
- All school staff have clear guidelines and procedures to follow in relation to child protection.
- We all share the responsibility of making sure as far as possible, that children are protected from harm and abuse.
- Children cannot be expected to take full responsibility for their safety and must be cared for by those looking after them.
- Children have the right to say what they think about things that affect them and must be listened to carefully.

### **There are different kinds of abuse. These are:**

**Physical abuse** involves the hitting, shaking or other ill-treatment of a child that can cause actual bodily harm.

**Sexual abuse** involves forcing or enticing a child into sexual activities- either in person or on-line and whether or not the child is aware what is happening.

**Emotional abuse** is the persistent emotional ill-treatment of children, such as frightening or intimidating them, or putting them in positions of danger. It is also abuse to convey to children the feeling that they are worthless or unloved. Children can also suffer the effects of emotional abuse if they have access to inappropriate material such as adult films, video games, images or conversations.

**Neglect**- Children are abused if they are neglected. This could involve failure to provide children with basic needs such as proper food and warmth, but it might also

be failure to see to the emotional well-being of the child. **Chronic and persistently poor school attendance is also regarded as neglect.**

**Online Abuse-** any type of abusive material sent or shown to a child including messages sent or received on social media, cyber bullying or access to inappropriate materials

### **What happens if a child is harmed or tells someone at school something?**

If a child tells an adult something that concerns them, the adult has a responsibility to report it to the School Designated Safeguarding Lead (Mrs Lane) or one of the school Deputy Safeguarding Leads (Mr. Lane, Ms. Fernandes, Miss Brady, Nichola). Staff in schools are sometimes in a position to notice changes in a child. These changes might be physical injuries or symptoms of possible abuse such as unusual behaviour or signs of distress. Sometimes children will talk to a familiar adult or someone they trust about abuse they have experienced or an incident that has occurred in school, at home or somewhere else.

We **cannot** keep secret any allegations or concerns about child abuse even if a child or third person requests this. If a child tells us something, we have a legal duty to report it. There are very clear guidelines about contacting Children's Social Care and/or the police, and not necessarily parents/carers first. The Designated Safeguarding Lead will contact Children's Services in the borough where the child lives to report what the child has said or what the school is concerned about.

**We cannot and will not keep information to ourselves that a child may be at risk. It is not the job of the school to investigate anything a child says or to find out if it is true. The only obligation a school has is to pass on the concern to the right people. This will usually be Children's Social Care and/or the police.**

Children's social care/the police will then make a decision about what will happen next. They may want to come and speak to the child and the parents themselves, they may want the school to speak to the parent or they may advise the school to continue to monitor the situation. Sometimes they will send a social worker together with a specially trained police officer to the school to speak to the child. This is because social workers and police are the key agencies in protecting children from abuse.

**Social workers, police, health and education professionals will work together with a family to support and help any child who has been harmed or is at risk of being harmed.**

Information is always treated with extreme sensitivity and will only be passed onto those professionals who are in a position to protect and support the child and family.

If you require any additional information, please see the school's Safeguarding & Child Protection Policy or make an appointment to speak to Mrs Lane.