



GOVERNORS' POLICY STATEMENT ON CHILD PROTECTION

Issue No	Author/Owner	Date Written/ Revised	Approved by Governors on	Comments
1	KJM	March 2010	3 March 2010	
1.1	NL	September 2011		Name change
1.2	NL	January 2014	5 March 2014	Name change
1.3	NL	January 2015	14 January 2015	No change
1.4	MCS	January 2016	13 January 2016	Name changes
1.5	MCS	February 2017	8 March 2017	No change

1. Rationale

At Backwell School the welfare of the child is paramount. Through all aspects of the wider curriculum and the life of the school as a whole, students are made aware of the impact of their decisions on others and enabled to recognise different risks in different situations and how to respond to them. This policy is designed to work alongside and in conjunction with the school's Safeguarding Policy and is reviewed annually.

2. Aims

Our commitment is to take all reasonable steps to safeguard and promote the welfare of each student in our care by:

- ensuring that all staff are fully aware of child protection procedures in identifying possible cases of abuse
- ensuring effective communication between all staff when dealing with child protection issues
- having in place clear procedures for those who encounter a child protection issue
- practicing safe recruitment in ensuring the checking of the suitability of staff and volunteers to work with children and young people
- being alert to the signs of abuse in the school and from outside
- dealing appropriately with any suspicion or disclosure of abuse
- being alert to the needs of children with medical conditions
- operating robust and sensible health and safety procedures
- considering and developing procedures to deal with any safeguarding issues which may be specific to individual students within our school and in our local area
- establishing an ethos where students feel secure and are encouraged to talk and be heard
- establishing effective communication between students, teachers, parents and outside agencies

3. Designated Safeguarding Lead

The school appoints a senior member of staff as “Designated Safeguarding Lead” who is responsible for matters relating to child protection and welfare. The main responsibilities of the Designated Safeguarding Lead are:

- To be the first point of contact for parents, students, teaching and support staff, external agencies and any other concerned person in all matters of child protection
- To ensure that all staff (teaching and support) are trained to be alert to signs of abuse and know how to respond to a student who discloses; this training is ongoing
- to co-ordinate the child protection procedures in the school
- to maintain and monitor the school’s records in relation to child protection issues with students and ensure their confidentiality
- to ensure that the duty of care towards students and staff is promoted by raising awareness of illegal, unsafe and unwise behaviour and to assist staff to monitor their own practice
- to attend multi-agency meetings (including case conferences) and any other outside agency meeting as required
- to brief the Headteacher on all referral cases and disclosures unless the Headteacher is the subject of the disclosure.

4. Deputy Designated Safeguarding Lead

The Deputy Designated Safeguarding Lead works alongside and deputises for the Designated Safeguarding Lead

The Deputy Designated Lead undertakes the appropriate training and attends refresher training at no longer than three year intervals.

5. Designated Governor

The Designated Safeguarding Lead keeps the Designated Governor regularly informed of all relevant matters.

The Designated Governor:

- is responsible for ensuring that the School’s procedures are consistent with legal requirements
- is responsible for managing allegations regarding the Headteacher with the Chair of Governors
- receives regular training in Child Protection matters
- is responsible with the Designated Safeguarding Lead for updating the governing body on all relevant Child Protection matters.

6. Students

Every student has the right to:

- be free from any abuse
- have staff in school with whom they feel confident to discuss any concerns regarding child protection.

A student against whom an allegation of abuse has been made may be suspended from the School during any investigation.

7. School and Staff Duty

The school informs parents of the school's Child Protection Policy through the appropriate media.

The school transfers relevant information to the new school if a child with child protection issues moves on.

A member of staff (teaching or support) suspecting or hearing a disclosure does not investigate it beyond the point at which it is clear that there is an allegation, but passes it on to the Designated Safeguarding Lead.

Social Services and/or the Police are contacted by the Designated Safeguarding Lead at the first opportunity.

The school has clear procedures for dealing with allegations against staff (and volunteers who work with children). The school's policy aims to strike a balance between the need to protect children from abuse and to protect staff from false or unfounded allegations.

A member of staff who is the subject of an allegation of abuse may be asked to take leave of absence or may be suspended pending the outcome of any investigation. This is decided by the Headteacher unless the allegation involves the Headteacher, in which case the Designated Governor makes the decision.

8. Recruitment

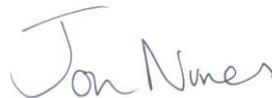
Child Protection and Safeguarding concerns are highlighted in the school's safeguarding policy. These include appropriately trained staff on interview panels, and appropriate DBS and background checks on all staff employed.

9. Designated Governor, Designated Teacher and Deputy Designated Officer

From September 2015 the Designated Governor is Jon Phillips, the Designated Safeguarding Lead is Martin Sills and the Deputy Designated Safeguarding Lead is Ally Cheeseman.



Chair of Governors



Headteacher