

# Hanover Street School



## Child Protection Policy

| <u>Relevant Performance Indicators</u>          |      |  |
|---|------|--|
| <i>Care Inspectorate Quality Statements</i>     | 3.3  | We have a professional, trained and motivated workforce which operates to National Care Standards, legislation and best practice.  |
| <i>HGIOS4 &amp; HGIOELCC Quality Indicators</i> | 2.1  | Safeguarding and Child Protection  |
| <i>National Care Standards</i>                  | 14.2 | You can be confident that the records,, plans and policies are properly made and kept in accordance with national and local guidance. This includes Child Protection Policy. |

Last Updated: January 2017

Review Date: August 2017 (in line with annual updates)



## Child Protection is EVERYONE'S responsibility.

*“Child protection is a complex system requiring the interaction of services, the public, children and families. For the system to work effectively, it is essential that everyone understands the contribution they can make and how those contributions work together to provide the best outcomes for children. Everyone working with children and their families, including social workers, health professionals, police, educational staff, voluntary organisations and the third sector, as well as members of the community, need to appreciate the important role they can play in remaining vigilant and providing robust support for child protection.”*

Page 2, National Guidance for Child Protection in Scotland 2014

At Hanover Street School, our child protection policy and the detailed arrangements, systems and procedures for ensuring that the policy statements are fully implemented are contained in the National Guidance for Child Protection in Scotland 2014.

In our school we are committed to creating an environment in which children are safe from abuse and in which any suspicion of abuse is responded to promptly and appropriately. The wellbeing of children in our care takes precedence over any other consideration. It is the clear responsibility of all those involved in our school to adopt good practice throughout their work.

In order to achieve this we will:

- Seek to work in partnership with parents, carers, other agencies and Aberdeen City Council to promote good practice in the area of child protection.
- Update any changes in child protection policy and practice under national guidance
- Endeavour to ensure that all staff have access to appropriate child protection training, supervision and support in order to implement this policy effectively and with the minimum of stress.

Child abuse is a criminal offence. All staff working in our school have an ethical duty to report any reasonable concern that a child may be being abused. Abuse can be defined as **Physical Abuse, Emotional Abuse, Sexual Abuse or Neglect.**

The role of members of staff is to inform the designated person of any instance, which suggests that abuse is taking place. It is not the role of the member of staff to wait for proof, investigate or gather evidence of abuse.

When a child tells an adult about possible abuse, his or her statements should not be dismissed or ignored. The adult should attend carefully to what the child wants to communicate, taking account of the child's age and stage of development, and allow the child to say what he or she wants to say without being drawn into detailed questioning.

Our school will always seek to work with families in a clear, positive and open way, bearing in mind always that the welfare of the children is paramount.

**In our school the designated person is: Mr Alan Markey**

**In their absence their deputy is: Miss Gillian Forbes**

**The School's child protection policy and a copy of National Guidance for Child Protection in Scotland 2014 is available in the school office. It can be accessed from this link.**

**<http://www.gov.scot/Resource/0045/00450733.pdf> which is also on the school website.**



**Any concerns about the wellbeing of a child need to be shared.**

No matter how good we are at evaluating and assessing matters to do with children in our classes, when it comes to the child's welfare we **cannot** evaluate and assess potential danger, risk, damage, as we only know a tiny part of the whole picture. We **must** share our concerns with the designated person.

**Child Protection Procedure checklist for our staff:**

**If**

- **A child discloses abuse, or**
- **A member of staff suspects a child may have been abused, or**
- **A third party expresses concern**
- **A staff member witnesses an abusive situation involving another staff member**

The member of staff **must: RECORD and REPORT**

**R Respond** without showing any signs of disquiet, anxiety or shock

**E Enquire** casually about how an injury was sustained or why a child appears upset

**C Confidentiality must not be promised** to children or adults in this situation

**O Observe** carefully the demeanour or behaviour of the child

**R Record** in detail what has been seen and heard

**D Do not interrogate or enter into detailed investigations:** rather encourage the child to say what he/she wants until enough information is gained to decide whether or not a referral is appropriate

Then **REPORT** to the designated person without delay.

Members of staff **must not**

- Investigate suspected/alleged abuse themselves
- Evaluate the grounds for concern
- Seek or wait for proof
- Discuss the matter with anyone other than head teacher/senior staff.

However, in the event of an emergency, if the designated person is not available, **this must not delay a referral or concern being passed on to social work.** Every employee has this responsibility if necessary.

**If you are worried about the safety of a child in Aberdeen call:**

Social Work Child Reception Team: 0800 7315520

Emergency Out of Hours: 01224 693936

Child Protection Unit: 01224 306877

Police Scotland: 101