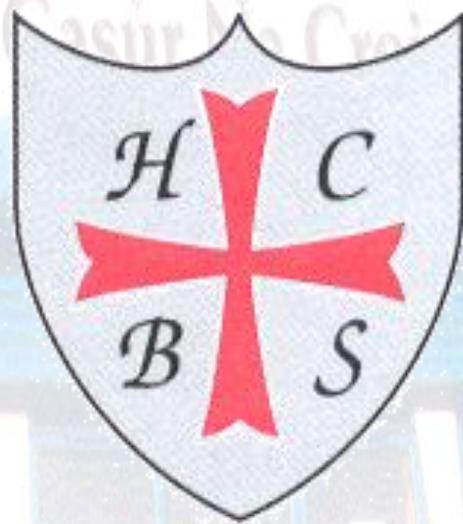


# Holy Cross Boys'

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Holy Cross Boys' Primary School

## Child Protection Policy

Holy Cross Boys' Primary School

# **CHILD PROTECTION POLICY**

## **HOLY CROSS BOY'S PRIMARY SCHOOL**

We in Holy Cross Boy's Primary School have a responsibility for the care, welfare and safety of the pupils in our charge. Through our Pastoral Care Policy we aim to provide a safe, caring and supportive environment where our pupils can learn and develop confidence they need to protect themselves from unwelcome behaviour or abuse from others, and to keep themselves safe.

All our staff and volunteers have had appropriate background checks and abide by the code of conduct agreed by the school. All those working in the school have the children's safety and welfare as their main consideration. The problem of child abuse will not be ignored by us and we know that some forms of child abuse are also a criminal offence.

We define child abuse as follows:

**Neglect:** The persistent or significant neglect of a child, or the failure to protect from exposure to danger, cold, starvation or care resulting in impairment to the child's health and development.

**Physical:** Injury to a child whether deliberately inflicted or knowingly not prevented.

**Sexual:** Sexual exploitation of a child for another's gratification: the involvement of a child in or exposure to any sexual activity which they do not make an informed consent to and which violates normal family roles.

**Emotional:** Persistent or significant emotional rejection or ill-treatment which would result in adverse effects on emotional, physical or behavioural development.

**Bullying:** We in Holy Cross Boys' Primary School recognise that bullying is a highly distressing and damaging form of abuse and will not be tolerated in our school. Staff in the school will be vigilant and will take immediate steps to stop it developing, protect and reassure the victims and discipline the bully.

Complaints from parents about bullying will be dealt with promptly, fully investigated and a response given through the designated teacher as regards the action taken.

(See Bullying Policy)

## **Procedures for reporting suspected or disclosed child abuse**

- The designated teacher for child protection is Chris Donnelly. In his absence Jan-Marie Reel will assume responsibility.
- Any disclosure or suspicion of abuse from a child will be dealt with promptly.
- The teacher/adult will not investigate but report to the designated teacher who will make full notes.
- The designated teacher will consult with the principal, plan a course of action and ensure there is a written report.
- After consultation, if it is thought the child is at risk, a referral will be made to social services and parents informed (unless there are concerns that the parent is the abuser).
- The principal may seek clarification/advice from the BELB/CCMS designated officer or the senior social worker before making a referral. The fullest consideration and advice will be taken before making a referral as the safety of the child is our first priority.

**Where there are real concerns about possible abuse the principal will inform:**

### **Social services**

#### **The BELB/CCMS designated officer for child protection**

This will be in an envelope marked

#### **Confidential- Child Protection**

If a complaint about possible child abuse is made against a member of staff, the principal or designated teacher must be informed immediately. The above procedures will apply and where the matter is referred to social services, the staff member will be removed from duties involving direct contact with children or suspended, pending investigation by social services. The chairman of the board of governors will be informed immediately.

If the complaint is made against the principal the designated teacher must be informed, who will then inform the chairman of the board of governors and decide on the necessary action.

**Any information given to staff about possible child abuse cannot be held in confidence. In the interest of the child, staff may need to share this with other professionals on a "Need to know" basis.**