



Child Protection Policy for Parents and Carers

Introduction

At Bale's Farm we strive to ensure that all pupils remain safe and free from harm. We are committed to playing a full and active part in the multi-agency response to child protection concerns. Additionally, the school has a legal duty to safeguard and promote the welfare of children and to have a child protection policy to meet Department for Education and Department of Health requirements.

Through their day-to-day contact with pupils, and direct work with families, our staff have a crucial role to play in noticing indicators of possible abuse or neglect. Parents should be aware therefore that where it appears to a member of staff that a child may have been harmed, Bale's Farm is legally required, as part of the local child protection procedures to report their concern to Children's Social Care immediately. To avoid any misunderstandings therefore, parents of children who sustain accidental injuries which result in cuts/bruises/fractures should inform us without delay.

Principles

- Children have a right to be safe.
- Parents have a right to be informed.
- Children are best protected when parents, school and Bale's Farm can work together.

Partnership

Bale's Farm will inform parents of any concerns about their children (providing it does not compromise the pupil's safety) and will help and support them as necessary.

Prevention

Bale's Farm will take positive action to prevent children suffering abuse and neglect through the development of an open culture that informs children of their rights and encourages them to speak about any concerns.

Responding to Concerns

Bale's Farm will refer all allegations or concerns that a child has been or is likely to be abused or neglected to Social Care within the Children's Services Department. We will also consult with other agencies when it has concerns that a child may have been abused or neglected. Bale's Farm will discuss with parents any concerns they have about children. Parents will be kept informed of what is happening, however if it is felt

that to do so would compromise the safety of the child, they will seek advice from Children's Services or the Police and act on their direction.

Child/Child Abuse

Physical and emotional abuse of children by other children will be dealt with through Bale's Farm's anti-bullying policy. Parents will be kept informed. All concerns about possible sexual abuse will be referred to Children's Social Care.

Child Protection Conferences

Bale's Farm will attend conferences and provide information about children and families when required to do so. This information will be shared with parents beforehand. Bale's Farm will keep confidential child protection records in a locked filing cabinet.

Confidentiality

Information and records about children on a Child Protection Plan will be given only to those people who need it and will be kept strictly confidential by them. However, if we were to receive information from another party about the possible abuse of a child then we would be duty bound to pass this on to other relevant agencies.

A full copy of the Bale's Farm Safeguarding Policy is also available on Bale's Farm website.

Policy updated – August 2023

Next update – August 2024