

# Child Protection Policy

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## MISSION STATEMENT

Parents involved with Emmaus Christian Family School understand that children are God's gift to our families (Psalm 127:3). Our children are 'wonderfully made' (Psalm 139:14) and, as parents, we recognise our duty to bring them up in the 'nurture and admonition of the Lord' (Ephesians 6:4). This involves parents in lovingly training their children to 'do what is right' and protecting them from anything that would cause them harm. All parents are members of Emmaus School.

Emmaus School recognises the importance of its ministry to children and young people, and its responsibility to protect and safeguard the welfare of children and young people entrusted to the school's care.

As parts of its mission, the school is committed to:

- The spiritual well being of the children in its care

- Valuing, listening to and respecting children and young people as well as promoting their welfare and protection

- Safe recruitment, supervision and training for all the adults involved within the school

- Adopting a procedure for dealing with concerns about possible abuse

- Encouraging and supporting parents/carers

- Supporting those affected by abuse in the school

- Maintaining good links with the statutory childcare authorities and other organisations

## SCHOOL POLICY

Emmaus School recognises the need to provide a safe and caring environment for children and young people. It also acknowledges that children and young people can be the victims of physical, sexual and emotional abuse, and neglect. Emmaus School has therefore adopted the procedures set out in this document (hereafter "the policy"). It also recognises the need to build constructive links with statutory and voluntary child protection agencies. The policy is based on a model published by the Churches' Child Protection Advisory Service (CCPAS).

Emmaus School is committed to on-going child protection training for all children/youth workers and will regularly review the policy and guidelines.

Emmaus School also undertakes to follow the principles found within the Abuse of Trust guidance issued by the Home Office and it is therefore unacceptable for those in a position of trust to

engage in any behaviour which might allow a sexual relationship to develop for as long as the relationship of trust continues.

## ‘EVERY CHILD MATTERS’

Enquiries into child deaths reveal common threads, which have led to a failure to intervene early enough:

- Poor communication

- A failure to share information

- Absence of anyone with a strong sense of accountability

Frontline workers trying to cope with staff vacancies, poor management, and a lack of effective training.

## RESPONDING TO ALLEGATIONS OF ABUSE

Under no circumstance should a school member carry out their own investigation into the allegation or suspicion of abuse. The person in receipt of allegations or suspicions of abuse will do the following:

Concerns must be reported as soon as possible to Mrs. Alison Gourlay (hereafter the “Co-ordinator”) tel no: 0114 2668322 who is nominated by Emmaus School to act on their behalf in dealing with the allegation or suspicion of neglect or abuse, including referring the matter on to the statutory authorities.

In the absence of the Co-ordinator, or if the suspicions in any way involve the Co-ordinator then the report should be made to Miss Catherine Wylie (hereafter the “Deputy Co-ordinator”) tel no: 07756515010. If the suspicions implicate both the Co-ordinator and the Deputy Co-ordinator, then the report should be made in the first instance to the Churches’ Child Protection Advisory Service (CCPAS) PO Box 133, Swanley, Kent, BR8 7UQ. Tel no: 0845 1204550 or alternatively contact the Safeguarding Children Advisory Service, tel. 0114 2053535. The local Social Services child safeguarding office telephone number is 0114 2734855, fax: 0114 2037776. The Police Child Protection Team tel no. is 0114 2202020 or 0114 2523280 for their central referral unit, mon – fri only.

Suspicions must not be discussed with anyone other than those nominated above. A written record of the concerns should be made in accordance with school procedures and kept in a secure place.

Whilst allegations or suspicions of abuse will normally be reported to the Co-ordinator, the absence of the Co-ordinator or Deputy Co-ordinator should not delay referral to the Social Services Department.

Emmaus School will support the Co-ordinator/Deputy Co-ordinator in their role, and accept that any information they may have in their possession will be shared in a strictly limited way on a need to know basis.

It is, of course, the right of any individual as a citizen to make a direct referral to the child

protection agencies, or seek advice from CCPAS, although the governors hope that members of the school will use the procedure contained in this child protection policy. If, however, the individual with the concern feels that the Co-ordinator/ Deputy Co-ordinator has not responded appropriately, or where they have a disagreement with the Co-ordinator(s) as to the appropriateness of a referral they are free to contact an outside agency direct. We hope by making this statement that the governors demonstrate the commitment of the school to provide effective child protection.

The role of the Co-ordinator/ Deputy Co-ordinator is to collate and clarify the precise details of the allegation or suspicion and pass this information on to the Social Services Department. It is Social Services task to investigate the matter under Section 47 of the Children Act 1989.

## ALLEGATIONS OF PHYSICAL INJURY OR NEGLECT

If a child has a physical injury or symptom of neglect, the Co-ordinator /Deputy Co-ordinator will:

Contact Social Services (or CCPAS) for advice in cases of deliberate injury, if concerned about a child's safety or if a child is afraid to return home.

Will not tell the parents or carers unless advised to do so having contacted Social Services.

Seek medical help if needed urgently, informing the doctor of any suspicions.

For lesser concerns, (e.g. poor parenting), encourage parent/carer to seek help, but not if this places the child at risk of injury.

Where the parent/carer is unwilling to seek help, offer to accompany them. In cases of real concern, if they still fail to act, contact Social Services direct for advice.

Seek and follow advice given by CCPAS (who will confirm their advice in writing) if unsure whether or not to refer a case to Social Services.

## ALLEGATIONS OF SEXUAL ABUSE

In the event of allegations or suspicions of sexual abuse, the Co-ordinator/ Deputy Co-ordinator will:

Contact the Social Services Department Duty Social Worker for children and families or Police Child Protection Team direct. They will NOT speak to the parent/carer or anyone else.

Seek and follow the advice given by CCPAS if, for any reason, they are unsure whether or not to contact Social Services/police. CCPAS will confirm its advice in writing for future reference.

Information from the Sheffield Safeguarding Children team can be obtained from their website: [www.safeguardingsheffieldchildren.org.uk](http://www.safeguardingsheffieldchildren.org.uk)

## **APPOINTMENT, SUPPORT, SUPERVISION & TRAINING OF TEACHERS & WORKERS**

Emmaus School will ensure all workers will be appointed, trained, supported and supervised in accordance with the principles set out in government guidelines "Safe from harm" (HMSO 1993), CCPAS guidance and School practice guidelines attached.

## **SUPERVISION OF GROUP/CHILDREN'S ACTIVITIES**

Emmaus School will provide details of the supervision for each specific activity in the school practice guidelines attached.

## **SUPPORT TO THOSE AFFECTED BY ABUSE**

Emmaus School is committed to offering pastoral care, working with statutory agencies as appropriate, and support to those attending the school who have been affected by abuse.

## **WORKING WITH OFFENDERS**

Emmaus School is unable to work with those who are known to have abused a child.

## **PROMOTING SPIRITUAL WELL-BEING**

The reality of the spiritual and eternal dimensions of our lives should not be hidden from our children. Neglecting activities, which promote spiritual well-being, can result in a 'hardness of heart' which will expose our children to eternal dangers. Praying with and for our children, reading and explaining the Bible to them, regularly taking them to a place of worship, lovingly exercising control over what they watch and read are activities consistent with promoting spiritual well-being.

This policy will be reviewed annually in September.

# Child Protection Policy Statement

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The following policy was agreed by the governors

We are committed to supporting parents and families

As members of the school we are committed to the nurturing, protection and safeguarding of children and young people.

We recognise that child protection is everybody's responsibility.

We are committed to following the agreed procedures and following statutory, denominational and specialist guidelines.

We seek to support all in the school affected by abuse.

We review this policy annually.

If you have any concerns for a child or in relation to any child protection matter then speak to one of the following who have been approved as child protection co-ordinators for this school.

Mrs. Alison Gourlay 0114 2668322

Miss Catherine Liesel Wylie 07756515010

A copy of the full policy can be seen in the school.

Policy last reviewed September 2009.

Next review due in September 2010.