



Vulnerable Child Statement



Vulnerable Child Statement
Approved Autumn Term 2019

Statement on the support for CHILDREN IN NEED who do not meet the Child Protection Threshold

Policy / Rational Statement:

We have a number of children in our schools for whom we have a range of concerns but for whom it is judged that the difficulties do NOT trigger the Child Protection Threshold.

Such children may be affected by issues of neglect or emotional abuse over a period of time, or may, because of specific family circumstances, have a crisis which puts them into this category. Failure on our part to react to these circumstances may well have a long term impact upon the child's life opportunities or could result in circumstances deteriorating to such a point where action is required under Child Protection.

It is our duty to watch out for such concerns and to take the appropriate action.

Procedures

- Where staff have any concern about a child, they should make a note of their concern on CPOMs and inform the Pastoral Care Team, their line manager and the head teacher.
- Records are kept on CPOMs for all children where issues/concerns are made. These files will only be available to read by the Leadership Team and the Pastoral Support Team.
- These records will be reviewed every time any additional concern is raised and all records will be reviewed twice a year. These children will always be discussed in Pupil Progress Meetings with the Headteacher.
- Such records may generate a number of possible actions:
 - holding the information with no immediate action
 - contacting the parents to discuss our concerns and the possible effects that this could be having on the child,
 - discussing the situation with another agency for example Early Help Co-ordinators,

- working on a plan for improvement informally with the family,
- discussing with the family the possibility of initiating an Early Help Assessment (Lead professional school)
- Discussion with Social care about the appropriateness of either an EHA chaired by a EHA co-ordinator or a formal referral to Social Care.
-
- The EHA process may clearly result in the closure of a case or prompt the case being escalated to into the 'at Risk' arena.

Staffing

It is the school's belief that close working with parents and other agencies at early stages of concern is effective and efficient. To this end the school will;

- Provide the appropriate time.
- Ensure adequately trained staff both in terms of expertise and in number to undertake EHA's.
- Ensure ongoing training on associated issues to develop expertise.
- Will liaise closely with all other agencies to promote the safeguarding agenda.
- Ensure that the school provides appropriate support for staff particularly when undertaking challenging work.