



Pinfold Street
Primary School



Statement of Procedures for Dealing with Allegations of Abuse against Staff

**This is Appendix 2 of our
CHILD PROTECTION and SAFEGUARDING POLICY**

Date of Policy: September 2019

Date of review: December 2019

Date of Next Review: December 2020

Governor Policy Review Statement

This policy is reviewed in full by the Governing Body on an annual basis.

The policy was reviewed and agreed by the Governing Body in December 2019.

It is due for review in December 2020 (up to 12 months from the above date).

Chair of Governors

Signature

Date

Head Teacher

Signature

Date

Chair of Governors

This school is committed to having effective recruitment and human resources procedures, including checking all staff and volunteers to make sure they are safe to work with children and young people. Key staff involved in recruitment processes will undertake Safer Recruitment Training offered by the Walsall Safeguarding Partnership.

However, there may still be occasions when there is an allegation against a member of staff or volunteer. Allegations against those who work with children, whether in a paid or unpaid capacity, cover a wide range of circumstances

All allegations of abuse of children by those who work with children or care for them must be taken seriously. In these circumstances all allegations against other members of staff or volunteers should be referred to the Headteacher. In their absence you should seek to speak with a member of staff from the Senior Leadership Team. If your concern is about the Headteacher you need to speak to the Chair of Governors. Information sharing should not be barrier but in the unlikely event that you cannot access the people above please discuss your concerns with the Local Authority Designated Officer, Michelle Pinnock-Ouma (01922) 654040 mobile TBC

The following procedure should be applied in all situations where it is alleged that a person who works with children has:

- Behaved in a way which has harmed a child, or may have harmed a child
- Possibly committed a criminal offence against or related to a child
- Behaved towards a child or children in a way which indicates that he/she is unsuitable to work with children

The allegations may relate to the persons behaviour at work, at home or in another setting.

**** All allegations should be notified to the Local Authority Designated Officer (LADO) within one working day.** (call 01922 654040)**

A senior member of the Human Resources section for the agency must also be consulted.

The LADO will discuss the matter with the Named Headteacher/principle to determine what steps should be taken and where necessary obtain further details of the allegation and the circumstances in which it was made. The discussion should also consider whether there is evidence/information that establishes that the allegation is false or unfounded, whether a referral to the Children's Social Care Services is required and/or whether disciplinary action is appropriate.

Most allegations will require immediate referral to the Children's Social Care Services and the Police, but common sense and judgement must be applied in reaching a decision about what action to take.

If the allegation is not patently false and there is cause to suspect that a child is suffering or is likely to suffer Significant Harm, the LADO will immediately refer the matter to the Children's Social Care Services and ask for a Strategy Discussion/Meeting to be convened straight away.

Where the safety of other children is in question as a result of the allegation, consideration should be given to invoking the Complex (Organised or Multiple) Abuse Procedure (this can be found on the Walsall Safeguarding Partnership website www.wlscb.org.uk).

Some allegations may be less serious and at first sight might not seem to warrant consideration of a police investigation or enquiries by Children's Social Care Services. However, it is important to ensure that even apparently less serious allegations are followed up and examined objectively by someone independent of the organisation. Consequently the LADO should be informed of all allegations that come to the employer's attention and appear to come within the scope of this procedure so that he or she can consult Police and social care colleagues as appropriate.

Where a referral is made directly to Children's Social Care Services, they will consult with the Local Authority Designated Officer (LADO), the Police and the Named Senior Officer/Manager in the relevant agency or organisation.

Where such allegations are made, consideration must be given to the following three strands:

1. The police investigation of a possible criminal offence
2. Enquiries and assessment by Children's Social Care Services as to whether the child is in need of protection or in need of services
3. Consideration by an employer of disciplinary action in respect of the individual

In addition, such allegations may give rise to complaints of poor practice, which should be considered in line with the agencies complaints or disciplinary procedures.

More information and the full Walsall Safeguarding Partnership Child Protection Procedures can be found at www.wlscb.org.uk

Appendix 2: Managing Allegations Against Staff and Volunteers



