# Penygaer Primary School

# Child Protection Policy

## September 2026

# Child Protection Policy

# for

# Penygaer Primary School

Introduction

Penygaer Primary School fully recognises the contribution it makes to child protection. There are three main elements to our policy:

- Prevention through the teaching and pastoral support offered to pupils, and the use of preventative services, such as Team Around the Family (TAF) in schools
- Procedures for identifying and reporting cases, or suspected cases, of abuse or harm. Because of our day-to-day contact with children school staff are well placed to observe the outward signs of abuse,
- Support to pupils who are in need or who may have been abused.

Our policy applies to all staff, governors and volunteers working in the school. Learning support assistants, mid-day supervisors, caretakers, secretaries as well as teachers can be the first point of disclosure for a child. Our school will annually review the policy and is committed to following any new guidance received from Carmarthenshire County Council or Welsh Government.

The Designated Senior Persons for child protection in this school are Helen Conway, Victoria Hinsley and Mandy Williams.

Prevention

We recognise that high self-esteem, confidence, supportive friends and good lines of communication with a trusted adult help to safeguard pupils. The school will therefore:

- Establish and maintain an ethos where children feel secure and are encouraged to talk, and are listened to
- Ensure children know that there are adults in the education setting whom they can approach if they are worried or in difficulty
- Include in the curriculum, activities and opportunities for relationships and sexuality education which equips children with the skills they need to stay safe from abuse and to know to whom to turn for help
- Include in the curriculum material that will help children develop realistic attitudes to the responsibilities of adult life, particularly with regard to childcare and parenting skills

- Build relationships with other agencies and ensure early and appropriate referrals for support and intervention are made before risks escalate
- Take a whole-school (setting) approach to well-being which will incorporate safeguarding and preventative measures to support children and families

Procedures

These should be followed in the event of a child protection disclosure/concern

We will follow the Wales Safeguarding Procedures that have been endorsed by the Local Safeguarding Children Board. The school will:

- Ensure it has a Designated Senior Person for child protection who has undertaken the appropriate training. These people are Alun Stephens, Helen Conway and Mandy Williams.
- Recognise the role of the DSP and arrange support and training.
- Report, using MyConcern, all child protection concerns and / or children at risk of harm as follows:
    - Staff with access to MyConcern: the concern must be logged as soon as possible on MyConcern. Verbally report the concern to the DSP too.
    - Staff, (including temporary staff, agency staff, and lunchtime supervisors), visitors, and governors without access to MyConcern: the concern must be shared with the DSP as soon as possible. The DSP will log the concern on MyConcern as soon as possible.

Ensure every member of staff and every governor knows:

- the name of the DSP and their role, the local authority point of contact and the designated governor for safeguarding
- that they have an individual responsibility for reporting children at risk and protection concerns to social services, or to the police, within the timescales agreed with the Regional Safeguarding Board how to take forward those concerns when the DSP is unavailable
- that all members of staff are aware of the need to be alert to signs of abuse and neglect, and know how to respond to a learner who may disclose abuse or neglect
- that members of staff who are EWC registrants are aware of the Code of Professional Conduct and Practice for registrants with the Education Workforce Council (see www.ewc.wales/site/index.php/en/fitness-to-practise/code-ofprofessional-conduct-andpractice-pdf.html) and the expectation within the Code that the registrant has regard to the safety and well-being of learners in their care and related content

- that parents/carers have an understanding of the responsibility placed on the school/college/education setting and staff for safeguarding and child protection by setting out its obligations in the school brochure

Provide training for all staff so that they:

- understand their personal responsibility
- know the agreed local procedures and their duty to respond
- are aware of the need to be vigilant in identifying cases of abuse and neglect
- know how to support a child who discloses abuse or neglect
- understand the role online behaviours may have in each of the above

Notify the local authority's social services team if:

• a learner on the child protection register is excluded, either for a fixed term or permanently

• there is an unexplained absence of a learner on the child protection register of more than two days' duration from school (or one day following a weekend)

• work to develop effective links with relevant agencies and cooperate as required with their enquiries regarding child protection matters, including attendance at initial review as well 5 as child protection conferences and core groups and the submission of written reports to the conferences

• keep written records of concerns about children (noting the date, event and action taken), even where there is no need to refer the matter to the local authority immediately. At Penygaer Primary School, concerns are logged on MyConcern.

• ensure all records are kept secure and in locked locations

• adhere to the procedures set out in the Welsh Government's Disciplinary and dismissal procedures for school staff: Revised guidance for governing bodies (see gov.wales/disciplinary-and-dismissal-procedures-school-staff)

• ensure that recruitment and selection procedures are made in accordance with Welsh Government's Keeping learners safe guidance

• designate a governor for safeguarding who will oversee the school's/college's child protection policy and practice.

Supporting those at risk

We recognise that children/young people who are at risk, suffer abuse or experience violence may be deeply affected by this.

This school/college/education setting may be the only stable, secure and predictable element in the lives of children at risk. Nevertheless, when at school/college/education setting their behaviour may be challenging and defiant or they may be withdrawn.

The school will endeavour to support the learner through:

- the content of the curriculum to encourage self-esteem and self-motivation
- the school/college ethos which:
    - promotes a positive, supportive and secure environment
    - gives learners a sense of being valued (see section 2 on Prevention)
- the school's/college's/education setting's behaviour policy, which is aimed at supporting vulnerable pupils in the school/college. All staff will agree on a consistent approach that focuses on the behavioural outcome of the child but does not damage the individual's sense of self-worth. The school/college/education setting will endeavour to ensure that the learner knows that some behaviour is unacceptable but that they are valued and not to be blamed for any abuse which has occurred
- liaison with other agencies who support the learner such as local authority officers – for example the educational psychology service, behaviour support services or the Education Welfare Service – child and adolescent mental health services, and advocacy services
- keeping records and notifying the local authority as soon as there is a recurrence of a concern.

Local authorities, governing bodies and proprietors also need to be able to show they have considered whether children, including individual children, in their area have any specific safeguarding needs in addition to those covered by guidance. If so, they must have policies and procedures in place to meet those needs.

When a learner on the child protection register leaves, we will transfer information to the new provider immediately and inform social services.

| All child protection referrals go to the: | |
|---|---|
| Call | 01554 742322 |
| Email | CRTChildren@carmarthenshire.gov.uk |
| Out of hours | 0300 333 2222 |

In addition, the following will be able to advise when these situations arise:

| | |
|---|---|
| Caryl Davies, School Safeguarding Office | |
| 01554 742369 | Carylmdavies@carmarthenshire.gov.uk |
| Rebecca Copp, Local Authority Designated Officer | |
| 01267 246595 | Rcopp@carmarthenshire.gov.uk |

Antibullying

Our policy on anti-bullying is set our in the Anti-bullying Policy and is reviewed annually by the governing body.

Physical Intervention

Our policy on physical intervention is set out in Restrictive Physical Intervention Policy and is reviewed annually by the governing body, and is consistent with the Welsh Government's guidance Safe and effective intervention – use of reasonable force and searching for weapons.

Children with additional learning needs (ALN)

We recognise that statistically children with additional learning needs are most at risk of abuse. Staff who work with children with an additional learning need, such as a profound and multiple disability, sensory impairment or emotional and behavioural problem, need to be particularly sensitive to signs of abuse.

| | |
|---|---|
| Signed: Mrs Helen Conway (Headteacher) |  |
| Signed: Mr Richard Samuel (Chair of Governors) |  |

| | |
|---|---|
| Review Date | September 2027 |