

As a parent we hope you will help us in our legal duties to protect all our children. Sometimes we may need to speak to you about your child and your circumstances.

As an academy we have a duty to contact/refer children to the statutory child welfare agencies if we are concerned that a child may be at risk of significant harm. If a referral is made to Children Services, it has been made in the best interests of the child. The academy will be involved in any child protection enquiry or police investigation in relation to an ongoing Child Protection concern. We will keep parents/carers informed of the welfare and educational progress of the child.

As an academy, we will strive to work with parents/carers regarding the welfare of their child. Nobody within the academy will judge you, or accuse you, we simply need to discuss the facts and decide whether you may need some extra help to give your child every opportunity they deserve.

The Designated Safeguard Lead for the academy is the Mr Howard.

Our Child Protection policies apply to all staff, governors and volunteers working in the academy.

The five main points are:

- Having a safe environment in which children can learn and develop.
- Ensuring we check the suitability of staff and volunteers to work with children.
- Raising awareness of child protection issues and equipping children with the skills needed to keep themselves safe.
- Make sure academy procedures for identifying and reporting concerns are followed.
- Supporting children who are at risk in line with their child protection plan.

Within this leaflet we have outlined some of the standard procedures the academy **MUST** follow. None of these procedures are aimed at upsetting or distressing you as parents/carers. They are designed to look at your child's needs and make sure that if your child does need some extra help, they get it.

Child Protection Explained Stalham Academy



Information for Parents / Carers

At Stalham Academy we value our children and their futures and we have a responsibility to ensure their well-being. With this in mind we have a Safeguarding and Child Protection Policy and procedures at Stalham Academy designed to keep our children as safe as possible.

As a Parent or Carer of our children you also have a vital role to play.

Your academy is part of your community and you are important in helping us keep children safe.

This leaflet will hopefully explain our procedures and your role within them.

Staff WILL:

- Remember that the priority is to protect the child;
- Treat the matter seriously;
- Listen, but do not judge;
- Believe the child;
- Tell the child that they have done the right thing in telling;
- Tell the child what will happen next where possible;
- Inform the Headteacher of all concerns immediately.

Staff WILL NOT:

- Contact the parents-this is the job of the Headteacher or social services;
- Ask lots of questions if a child has disclosed concerning information;
- Speak to anyone about whom allegations are made (including colleagues);
- Promise to keep secrets.

The Headteacher will usually discuss concerns with a parent/carer and seek their agreement to making a referral to social services, if such action will not place a child at increased risk of significant harm. The Headteacher will **NOT** ask parents before calling Social Services if:

- The parent knew of the concerns and did not protect the child;
- The parent is the cause of concern;
- The parent would not be able to discuss the concern.
- They are seeking a no-names consultation for further advice on a particular situation.

As a parent/carer there is usually somebody you can talk to/ask for help and support from. You may find the following helpful:

- Make time to talk/listen to your child;
- Familiarise yourself with your child's friends and routines;
- Be sensitive to changes in behaviour;
- Teach your child to feel confident to refuse to do anything they feel is wrong;
- Be aware of your child's use of the internet and mobile phone, to ensure they don't place themselves at risk.

As a parent/carer you play a vital role in all that the academy do, especially when it comes to ensuring all our children are safeguarded and protected. We ask that you as parents:

- Talk to staff about any concerns you have for your child;
- Remember that the academy **MUST** share concerns about your child;
- The academy will **NOT** judge you, but they may have to share difficult information;
- The academy **MUST** prioritise the safety and wellbeing of children, they cannot keep relevant information from other agencies.

Child Protection concerns **can** involve:

- Children telling staff or other children about a child protection or neglect issue
- Children having unexplained or unusual injuries
- Children behaving in a way that is unusual for their age and understanding e.g. sexual knowledge
- Children displaying features that could be indicators of neglect e.g. overly hungry, extreme tiredness, concerning personal appearance
- Children who are frightened or overly aggressive

There are many ways in which staff might become concerned about a child. Staff will always want to assist the child and the family. Discussions with parents are intended to support the family not accuse anyone.

Please help our academy make sure all our children stay safe.

