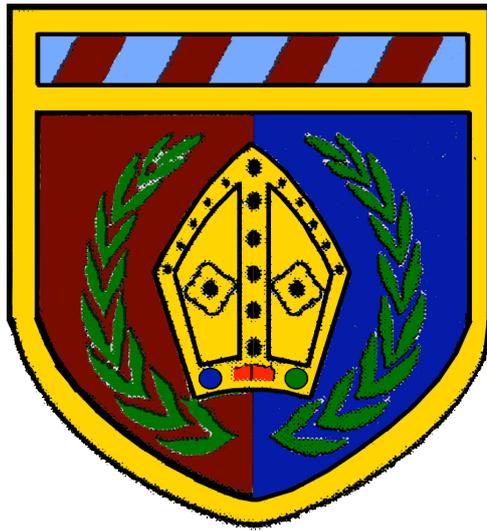


# St John Fisher Catholic Primary School



## Child in Need Policy

"To live, love and learn and learn in our caring community"

## St John Fisher Catholic Primary School



### Statement on the support for children in NEED who do not meet the Child Protection Threshold.

#### **Policy / Rational Statement:**

We have in school a number of children 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 longer term 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 teachers or support staff have any concern about a child, they must complete a 'Record of Concern' Sheet and hand it to the Head teacher, Mrs D. Mooney or Mrs Finn in the head's absence.
- Records will be kept centrally on ALL children where issues/concerns are made. These files will only be available to headteacher and deputy headteacher.
- These records will be reviewed every time any additional concern is raised and all records will be reviewed regularly.
- Such records may generate a number of possible actions:
  - holding the file 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 Children and Family First Team,
  - working on a plan for improvement informally with the family,
  - discussing with the family the possibility of initiating a Common Assessment Framework meeting (Lead professional school)
  - Discussion with Social care about the appropriateness of either a CAF chaired by a CAF co-ordinator or a formal referral to Social Care.
- The CAF process may clearly result in the closure of a case or prompt the case being handed 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 CAF's
- Ensure ongoing training on associated issues to develop expertise.
- Will liaise closely with all other agencies to further the safeguarding agenda
- Ensure that the school provides appropriate support for staff particularly when undertaking difficult work.

Signed:

Headteacher:

Chair of Governors:

Date: September 2013