

# **BUSY BEES AND THE AFTER SCHOOL ACTIVITIES POLICY FOR ADDRESSING DISCLOSURES OF DOMESTIC ABUSE AND FOR SAFEGUARDING VULNERABLE ADULTS**

## **OVERVIEW**

The consequences of abuse including domestic abuse and domestic violence are devastating and long term, affecting the physical health and mental well-being of the victims and the social development of children in the household. Busy Bees and after school activities are committed to addressing domestic abuse and violence whenever it is disclosed and to eradicating it. This policy sets out guidance on how the Busy Bees and after school activities will address issues of domestic abuse and violence.

## **INTENT**

1. To ensure that prompt action is taken to safeguard any vulnerable adults or children identified at risk of abuse
2. To ensure that any form of abuse including domestic abuse or violence will not be tolerated
3. To guide the actions of all staff where a disclosure is made or if they have well-founded evidence or suspicion that abuse is taking place or that an adult is vulnerable to abuse
4. To ensure that swift action is taken to protect children, vulnerable adults and others from any form of abuse including domestic abuse and violence
5. To ensure that the school appropriately and promptly involves and co-operates with the specialist outside agencies including the police and social services.
6. To ensure that LA and DfE guidelines are followed.

## **IMPLEMENTATION**

1. If a child or any other person discloses that they are a victim of any form of abuse including domestic abuse or violence or that they have witnessed or been made aware of domestic violence, to a member of staff, that member of staff must report it immediately to CPO and the head teacher.
2. The CPO and head teacher will ensure that the care, safety and well-being of any children or vulnerable adult are given the highest priority. They will follow the school's child protection policy and procedures at all times.
3. The CPO and/or head teacher will contact the appropriate agency including LA child protection team, social services, children's social services and/or the police liaison officer to report the disclosure and to seek advice on the action that they must take.
4. If a member of staff or other employee or other adult discloses that they are the victim of domestic abuse or violence the disclosure should be reported to the headteacher.
5. Members of staff should never offer confidentiality to any child or other discloser as they have a duty to report all disclosures in line with provisions of this policy.
6. Busy Bees and after school activities will ensure that it does all that it can to support and protect victims of domestic abuse and violence and so it will be flexible in its routines and work patterns in relation to the needs of the victim.

## **IMPACT**

This policy will ensure that any disclosure of domestic violence or abuse is dealt with promptly and effectively. It will be used in conjunction with and in support of the LA and DfE guidelines for addressing and preventing abuse and violence. It will also be used in conjunction with other relevant school, Busy Bees and after school activities policies including the Child protection Policy and Behaviour Policy.

Reviewed by A. Parker Oct 24

Approved by Governing Board

Policy to be reviewed Oct 25