



Houghton Primary School

Keeping Children Safe

At Houghton Primary School we care about every child's welfare. We want all our children to be happy, healthy and safe. We seek to do this by providing a safe school environment and by identifying children who are suffering or likely to suffer significant harm, taking appropriate action with the aim of making sure they are kept safe both at home and while at school.

We have systems in place at our school which are designed to:

- ◆ Prevent unsuitable people working with children
- ◆ Promote safe practice and challenge poor and unsafe practice
- ◆ Identify instances in which there are grounds for concern about a child's welfare, and initiate or take appropriate action to keep them safe
- ◆ Contribute to effective partnerships, working with all those involved in providing services for children.

At Houghton Primary School we follow best practice in recruitment and employment of staff in order to keep our children safe. We also require all volunteers who will be working with our children to hold a full and clear CRB (Criminal Records Bureau) Check before they will be able to help children. All staff have appropriate training in Child Protection, following clear policy and procedures.

Under the Education Act 2002 (section 175), schools must make arrangements to safeguard and promote the welfare of children.

The law (Children Act 1989) requires all school staff to pass on information which gives rise to a concern about a child's welfare, including risk from neglect, physical, emotional or sexual abuse. The staff will seek, in general, to discuss any concerns with the parent/carer, and where possible seek their consent to a referral to Social Care. **This will only be done where such discussion will not place the child at increased risk of significant harm.** Schools will seek advice from Social Care when they have reasonable cause to suspect a child may be suffering or likely to suffer significant harm. Occasionally, concerns are passed on which are later shown to be unfounded. Parents/carers will appreciate that the designated person for child protection was carrying out their responsibilities in accordance with the law and acting in the best interests of all children.

Every Child Matters

At Houghton Primary School we ensure that they do