

**Whaley Thorns Primary School**



# Private Fostering Policy

January 2018

# **1 Introduction and Context**

Most children and young people spend some time away from their home and stay with relatives and friends. Some of these children and young people may stay for longer and therefore special measures may apply.

If a child or young person is under 16 and under 18 is disabled and living with a family member or friend for longer than 28 days this is seen as Private Fostering. This does not have to be continuous and periods staying with family members or friends that add up to 28 days or longer in any period this may then be seen as Private Fostering. Private Fostering is an arrangement made by the parent with the carer who has agreed to look after the child or young person on their behalf. In some circumstances they may not have agreed or the circumstances of their living arrangements raises concerns.

## **1.1 Our responsibilities**

Whaley Thorns Primary School fully recognises its responsibilities for knowing about what Private Fostering is, to know how to identify a child or young person who may be in a privately fostering arrangement and to have a duty to report this to the local Authority if it is believed the child or young person is possibly living in such an arrangement.

This policy should be read in conjunction with "how to Identify a Privately Fostered Child" Appendix A, found at the end of this policy and for more information guidance can be found via the following link:

[Derbyshire County Council - Private Fostering](#)

Furthermore, we will follow the procedures set out by the Derbyshire Safeguarding Children's Board:

<http://derbyshirescbs.proceduresonline.com/index.htm>

## **1.2 Our Policy**

Under the Children Act, 1989, the Local Authority has a duty to make sure the arrangement that the child or young person is in will provide for the child's or young person's needs and safeguard his or her welfare.

Whaley Thorns Primary School will ensure all staff, governors and volunteers in the school are aware of this duty.

If a member of staff, governor or volunteer becomes aware that a child or young person may be living in a Private Foster arrangement it is the responsibility of that person to report this to the Safeguarding Designated Lead and this person may need to make further enquiries to try and establish this.

The Safeguarding Designated Lead should seek advice from Children's Social Care as to whether the child or young person is a privately fostered child under the regulations. If so, a referral must be made to Childrens' Social Care.

Essential information for making a referral includes:-

- Full names and dates of birth for the child
- Address and daytime phone numbers for the current carer including mobiles
- The child's address and phone number;
- Whereabouts of the child (and siblings);
- Child and family's ethnic origin;
- Child and family's main language;
- Actions taken and people contacted;
- Special needs of the child, including need for an accredited interpreter, accredited sign language interpreter or other language support;
- A clear indication of the family's knowledge of the referral and whether they have consented to the sharing of confidential information;
- The details of the person making the referral.

Other information that may be essential in a referral about a possible Privately Fostered child or young person:

- Address and daytime phone number of the parent/ parental responsibility holder
- Address and phone numbers of any other family members
- Any other helpful information about the parent/parental responsibility to assist an understanding of why this child or young person is not living with them.
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Whaley Thorns Primary School will work together with the Local Authority to help safeguard and promote the child's or young person's safety and welfare.

## **2 Safeguarding Roles and Responsibilities**

**All staff, volunteers and governors have responsibility for the following:**

- To ask parents /carers questions around their relationship with the child or young person if this is unclear, confusing or concerning.
- To follow up any discussion with a child or young person about their living arrangement which is unclear, confusing or concerning.
- To have robust consent/trips/outings letters which clearly define the child's relationship to the adult giving consent

If a child or young person is living in a Private Fostering arrangement:

- To work with the Local Authority to ensure the child's or young person's needs are been met, to monitor and report to ensure the safety and welfare of that child or young person whilst been privately fostered.
- To assist with advising and supporting the carer to undertake their duties whilst the child or young person is living in such an arrangement.

## **3 Management of the Policy**

The SDL/s will become familiar with this policy and ensure all staff, governors and volunteers are aware and familiar with the legal requirements, and duties.

The SDL/S will endeavour to read and provide information on Private Fostering to school staff on a regular basis.

The SDL/s will undertake the e-learning module made available on Private Fostering and print the certificate for the school safeguarding training portfolio.

The Head Teacher will ensure that private fostering forms part of staff safeguarding induction and is used in safeguarding training in the school.

The head teacher will report on issues relating to private Fostering and any impact for the school to the governing body.

The Governing Body will oversee the policy, ensure its implementation and review its content on an annual basis in line with the S175 Safeguarding audit.

**Signed by:**

Head Teacher

Date:

**Signed By:**

Chair of Governors

Date:

Appendix A

# PRIVATE FOSTERING ARRANGEMENTS

## How to identify a private fostering arrangement and what to do next



### ***A privately fostered child is one who is:***

- Under the age of 16 (18 if disabled)
- Living with someone other than a parent or person with parental responsibility or close relative or step parent
- With the intention that it last for 28 days or longer – either as a single episode or cumulatively

### ***This means:***

- The local authority is **not** involved in making the arrangement
- The child is **not** in care

### ***There is a duty under the Children Act to notify the local authority of a private fostering arrangement – this duty applies to:***

- Any parent or other person with parental responsibility proposing to place a child in a private fostering arrangement
- Any person proposing to privately foster a child
- Any other person involved in the proposed arrangement
- Education, health and other professionals who become aware of a possible private fostering arrangement where they are not satisfied that the local authority have been, or will be, notified of the arrangement

Universal children’s services – such as primary care, health visiting, school nursing, schools and early years, voluntary sector - are especially well placed to identify children who are not living with a parent who **may** be privately fostered. Below is a simple question and answer format for checking whether or not this may be the case.

### **How to identify a possible private fostering arrangement**

Is the child aged under 16 years? (18 if disabled)	YES	If <b>NO</b> , the child <b>cannot</b> be privately fostered
	NO	
Is s/he living with a parent/person with parental responsibility or a close relative - aunt, uncle, step-parent, grandparent sibling but not a cousin or great-aunt/uncle?	YES	If <b>YES</b> , the child <b>cannot</b> be privately fostered
	NO	
Is s/he adopted or in care, subject to special guardianship or a residence order ?	YES	If <b>YES</b> , the child <b>cannot</b> be privately fostered
	NO	
<b>Has</b> the child been living with person providing accommodation for 28 days or longer; or Is the child <b>planning to, or is likely to</b> , be living with the person providing accommodation for 28 days or longer - <i>either as a single stay or cumulatively</i>	YES	If <b>YES</b> , the child <b>is/may be</b> privately fostered
	NO	