

# Orchard Community Primary School



## Private Fostering Policy

This policy was approved by the Governing Body of Orchard Primary School at their meeting on.....

Signed..... Chair of Governors

Version	Date	Author	Reason for Change
0.1	9/2018	FS	New Policy
0.2	5/2021	FS	Reviewed and updated

Review Frequency	Next Review Date
Every 3 years	5/2024

## **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.

## **Our responsibilities**

Orchard 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.

## **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.

Orchard 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 Designated Safeguarding Lead and this person may need to make further enquiries to try and establish this.

The Designated Safeguarding 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 Children's 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.

Orchard Primary school will work together with the Local Authority to help safeguard and promote the child's or young person's safety and welfare.

### **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 being 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.

### **Management of the Policy**

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

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.