

## Mitcheldean Endowed Primary School



### Confidentiality Policy

#### *Our Vision:*

*To ensure that every child receives the highest quality education that is engaging, enriching and inclusive, in an environment that works hard to develop, support and care for all its members, with people that foster mutual respect and encouragement in accordance with Christian Values.*

This policy has been developed by the Headteacher and the PSHE Co-ordinator through consultation with Governors, parents, children and appropriate outside agencies. It has been written in accordance with safeguarding and child protection requirements.

#### **Aims:**

When teachers are working with children on personal, social and health education topics, or in the teaching of any sensitive or controversial issue, it is possible that some children will want to discuss information that is of a personal nature, or may sometimes make disclosures about risky or illegal behaviour. This policy aims to set out guidelines for responding to such situations.

#### **Objectives:**

- To ensure that staff, parents and pupils understand what will happen if these situations occur.
- To define 'confidentiality'.
- To explain the implications of this for practice within the school.
- To ensure that staff, pupils and parents understand what is meant by 'confidentiality' at Mitcheldean Primary School.
- To ensure that staff and, in some situations, specialist visitors consider the issue of confidentiality when discussing the children in their care and incidents that may have happened or have been disclosed at school.

#### **Guidelines for practice:**

This policy is particularly relevant to the teaching of CPSHE, Drug Education and Relationships and Sex Education. However it also covers all situations both in and outside the classroom.

- 'Ground Rules' will be made explicit in lessons whenever appropriate. These should outline the following (in appropriate language):

- We will respect each other's views
- We will listen carefully to one another
- We don't make negative comments towards others.
- We don't name names or talk about things that are very personal to us. If I (*the teacher, member of staff*) think that someone has said something that makes me think they are being hurt in some way or are not safe, I will have to talk to Mrs Dowding about it to see if it is necessary to inform anyone else about it.

When the lesson is tackling particularly sensitive matters such as puberty, sex or drug education, we will add another rule which is that:

'Whatever we talk about in this lesson will stay between us. It does not need to be discussed in the playground or outside of school!'

- Following the guidance in our Child Protection policy, where information of a sensitive nature is disclosed, this must be treated seriously and with sensitivity. Under no circumstances must a promise be made that you will not tell anyone else. Explain that in order to help, you may need to talk to other people. If a child discloses information that indicates that they may be at risk of abuse, neglect or harm, you must seek further advice as indicated in our Child Protection policy. All disclosures or issues that are of any concern will be logged by the adult in the Child protection book that is kept in the office.

### **Breaking Confidentiality:**

In the following circumstances we are will always break confidentiality:

- Life and immediate risk
- Prevention of terrorism
- A third party is at risk of abuse or neglect
- When you have been subpoenaed to a Court of Law

### **Following a disclosure:**

- Agree with the child who you will talk to and what you will say
- How you will continue to support them through the process

How you will continue to support them through the process 'Confidentiality' also refers to protecting the information we hold about the pupils in this school and their families. All staff will endeavour to maintain confidentiality when appropriate, for example by considering the conversations they have about pupils and their families, the purpose of these conversations and where these take place. All students and helpers at the school will be made aware of this through our Confidentiality Statement (see below).

**Confidentiality Statement: Confidentiality Statement:**

Teachers and support staff talk about their job constantly. Conversations at breaks and lunchtimes are often about school, individual children and their families.

We ask that such conversations are regarded as confidential.

Similarly, the work, progress and behaviour of individual children is a matter of fact for the teacher, the child and the parents of the child. Any comments made by students about a child, or an incident at school may be misinterpreted and lead to misunderstandings.

Small incidents are dealt with in school and should end there. More serious incidents will be discussed, in confidence, with parents.

We feel sure you will understand the need for such confidentiality on school matters. As a student/ helper in the school we ask that you respect confidentiality on such matters to avoid misunderstandings and upset.

Thank you for your cooperation!

**How we are meeting these objectives:**

- All staff working at Mitcheldean Primary School will be made aware of the contents of this policy and the implications of it for their everyday practice.
- All parents will be made aware of this policy and its contents.
- All external agencies working in school to deliver elements of CPSHE will be made aware of this policy and its contents. When working with the whole class or groups of children, their practice will be covered by this policy. When working with individual children or families, they will be bound by their own professional code of conduct.

This policy is cross referenced with our CPSHE Policy, Equal Opportunities Policy, Racial Equality Policy, E-safety Policy, Safe Guarding Behaviour and Discipline Policy and Gender Equality Policy, Home School Agreement.

**Date of Policy: November 2014**

**Review date: November 2014**