



Child causing Concern policy 2023-25

To be reviewed: two yearly unless the need arises.



'Aim ever higher' Together we learn and grow

Philippians 4:13 "I can do all this through him who gives me strength"

Policy Rational Statement:

At Leigh Church of England Academy, we have a number of children for whom we have a range of concerns, but it is considered that these difficulties do NOT meet the child protection threshold under the Effective Support for Children and Families in Coventry guidance.

Such children may be affected by longer term issues of neglect or emotional abuse over a period of time or may because of specific family circumstances have a crisis which puts them into this category. Failure for Leigh Church of England Academy to react to these circumstances may well have a long-term impact upon the child's life opportunities or could result in circumstances deteriorating to such a point where action is required under Child Protection.

It is the duty of all staff members, Governor's, parents/carers and children at Leigh Church of England Academy to watch out for such concerns and to take the appropriate action.

Procedures:

- Where staff have any concern about a child, they should make a note of their concern and inform the safeguarding team. All concerns are to be logged on CPOMs.
 - Records will be kept centrally on ALL children where issues/concerns are held. These files will be made available to the appropriate members of staff and always available to the safeguarding team.
 - These records will be reviewed every time any additional concern is raised, and all records will be reviewed at the beginning of the new term at the very least.
- Such records may generate a number of possible actions:
 - a) Holding the file with no immediate action
 - b) Contacting the parents to discuss our concerns and the possible effects that this could be having on the child
 - c) discussing the situation with the academy's Early Help Assessment Co-Ordinator, to work on a plan for improvement informally with the family
 - d) discussing with the family the possibility of initiating an Early Help Meeting
 - e) formal referral to Social Care.
- The Early Help process may clearly result in the closure of a case or prompt the case being handed into the at-risk arena.

Staffing

It is Leigh Church of England Academy's belief that close working with parents/carers and other agencies at early stages of concern is effective and efficient. To facilitate this Leigh Church of England Academy will:

- Provide the appropriate time to meet with parents/carers/children/agencies.
- Ensure adequately trained staff both in terms of expertise and in number to support the Early Help process.
- Ensure staff undertake ongoing training on associated issues to develop expertise.
- Will liaise closely with all other agencies to further the safeguarding agenda.
- Ensure that the school provides appropriate support for staff particularly when undertaking difficult work.