

## **STATEMENT ON CHILD PROTECTION AND CHILD IN NEED PROCEDURES**

### **Child Protection Referral**

Section 47 [1] of the Children Act 1989 gives the local authority a duty to investigate when it is suspected or found that a child is suffering or likely to suffer significant harm. The local authority will then make enquiries from other agencies to enable them to decide whether they should take action to safeguard or promote the child's welfare.

As a school we have a statutory duty to assist social services departments acting on behalf of children in need or enquiring into allegations of child abuse. As well as this statutory duty we have a pastoral responsibility towards our pupils and we recognise that pupils have a fundamental right to be protected from harm. Children cannot learn effectively unless they feel safe and secure. We therefore have a child protection policy, which reflects both our statutory duty and our pastoral responsibilities.

If we have a concern that a child has been abused or is at risk of being abused, we have a duty to refer this to social services. In making any referral, the school is not making any judgement for example about individual parents or carers. It is for social services to decide whether there should be an investigation.

### **Referral Common Assessment Form [CAF]**

There may be other circumstances [which are not to do with child protection, but more related to meeting children's needs] when we feel you and your family may benefit from some support from other agencies i.e. behaviour management, counselling. Before we can do this we will need to seek your permission. We will then complete a CAF form. This will be completed with you.