



*Many schools - one goal.*

## **WHISTLE BLOWING POLICY**

**This document should be read and understood with reference to the following documents:**

- Child Protection Policy
- Data Protection and Information Handling Policy
- Disciplinary Policy
- Equality Policy
- Safer Recruitment Policy
- Data Protection Act 1998
- Dealing with Allegations of Abuse Against Teachers and Staff (2011) and Wiltshire Flowchart for dealing with allegations against staff
- Guidance for Safer Working Practice for Adults working with Children and Young People (2015)

### **Principles**

Paxcroft Primary School is committed to the highest possible standards of openness, probity and accountability. Our Whistle Blowing Policy supports this commitment. It gives employees and others with genuine concerns about malpractice or wrongdoing in the school, a way to voice those concerns without fear of victimisation

Sometimes people are reluctant to act upon their concerns because they think that they are being disloyal, or because they are afraid that they might be victimised if they speak up. The purpose of this policy is to provide you with the help and support you need to speak up and be confident that you can do so safely. We will take your concerns seriously and ensure that they are dealt with promptly and fairly

### **Policy - How to raise a concern:**

#### **Who to contact:**

- If your complaint is about a member of staff, speak or write to the Head Teacher (*Mrs Louise Rhodes - head@paxcroft.wilts.sch.uk*)
- If your complaint is about the actions of the Head Teacher, speak or write to the Chair of Governors (*Mrs Bernie McHale - chairofgovernors@paxcroft.wilts.sch.uk*)
- If your complaint is about the actions of a Governor, speak or write to the Head Teacher or Chair of Governors
- If your complaint is about the actions of the Chair of Governors, speak or write to the Head Teacher

- If the Chair of Governors and Headteacher are all subject of the complaint speak to or write to our Designated Whistleblowing Governor (*Mrs Louise Currant email: [l.currant@paxcroft.wilts.sch.uk](mailto:l.currant@paxcroft.wilts.sch.uk)*).
- Where a staff member feels unable to raise an issue with their employer, or feels that their genuine concerns are not being addressed, other whistleblowing channels are open to them:
  - general guidance on whistleblowing can be found via: Advice on Whistleblowing
  - the NSPCC’s ‘what you can do to report abuse’ dedicated helpline is available as an alternative route for staff who do not feel able to raise concerns regarding child protection failures internally, or have concerns about the way a concern is being handled by their school or college. Staff can call 0800 028 0285 – line is available from 8:00 AM to 8:00 PM, Monday to Friday and email: [help@nspcc.org.uk](mailto:help@nspcc.org.uk)

**The procedures after your initial contact:**

- you will receive a response within 5 working days (term time)
- two of the above 3 members will discuss the concerns and
- you will be asked to meet in person to discuss your concerns. Before the meeting, it would be helpful if you write down what you consider the problem to be, giving names, dates and places where possible. If there are any other documents that you think might be helpful, please try to bring these with you.

**Procedures following the initial meeting:**

- We will write to you within 5 days of your initial meeting to:
  - acknowledge that your concern has been received
  - outline our understanding of what the issues are, and
  - indicate how we propose to deal with the matter if appropriate
- If the responding member decides that it is appropriate for an investigation to be carried out, advice from the Local Authority will be sought and followed
- Where it is necessary to safeguard children or vulnerable adults, the appropriate procedures will be followed. In addition, where it is established that the complaint involves issues of bullying or unlawful discrimination, it will be necessary to seek appropriate professional advice
- If an investigation is carried out, you will always be informed of the final outcome. It might not be possible to give you full details of the outcome if it contains personal details of a third party, because we have a duty to protect personal information under the Data Protection Act

**Anonymous allegations:**

You are encouraged to raise your concern in person, because concerns that are expressed anonymously are difficult to investigate. However, anonymous allegations may be investigated depending on:

- the seriousness of the issues raised
- the credibility of the allegation and
- the likelihood of being able to confirm the allegation from attributable sources.

**How will the school treat whistleblowers?**

- If you make an allegation in good faith but it is not confirmed by the investigation, no action will be taken against you. If you knowingly make malicious allegations, disciplinary action may be taken against you

- Disciplinary action will be taken against any member of staff who tries to stop another employee from raising a concern or who is responsible for any act of recrimination or victimisation against an employee who raises a concern
- If you raise a concern, you will be given the opportunity to feed back any issues or problems you may have experienced as a result. This will take place outside your line management structure. The purpose of this is to ensure that employees who have raised concerns in good faith do not suffer as a result