



Granville Academy

Private Fostering Policy

Author:	Principal
Approval needed by	LGB
Consultation required	
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Date of next review:	May 2021

Our Trust Vision

To ensure that all the children and young people in our care have the opportunity to fulfil their potential through achieving highly, regardless of their ability or background.

Link to other Policies and Guidance

- Child Protection and Safeguarding Policy
- Attendance and Punctuality Policy
- DFE
- DSCB

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 procedures may apply.

A private fostering arrangement is essentially one that is made privately (that is to say without the involvement of a local authority) for the care of a child under the age of 16 (under 18, if disabled) by someone other than a parent or close relative with the intention that it should last for 28 days or more.

Definition

A privately fostered child is a child under 16 (or 18 if Disabled) who is cared for by an adult who is not a parent, grandparent, aunt, uncle, step parent (including civil partnerships), sister or brother, and may be a family friend, or neighbour and where the child is to be cared for in that person's home for 28 days or more.

A child who is Looked After or placed in any residential home, hospital or school (where they are receiving full-time education) is excluded from the definition. In a private fostering arrangement, the parent retains Parental Responsibility.

Children under 16 who spend more than 2 weeks in residence during holiday time in a school, become privately fostered children for the purposes of the legislation during that holiday period.

Our responsibilities

Granville Academy fully recognises its responsibilities for knowing about what Private Fostering is, and ensuring that staff are fully aware of how to identify a child or young person who may be in a private fostering arrangement and is aware of the duty to report any such arrangement to the Local Authority without delay.

This policy should be read in conjunction with “How to Identify a Private Fostered Child” (Appendix A).

Furthermore, we will follow the procedures set out by the Derbyshire Safeguarding Children Board, section 1.6.10 which can be located here

http://derbyshirescbs.proceduresonline.com/p_ch_living_away.html#priv_fostering

Our Duties

Under the Children Act, 1989, the Local Authority has a duty to make sure that 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. Granville Academy will ensure all staff, governors and volunteers in the Academy 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 Fostering arrangement, it is the responsibility of that person to report this to the Safeguarding Designated Lead who will then make further enquiries to try and establish the circumstances.

If necessary, the Safeguarding Designated 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. The Derbyshire professional advice line can be contacted on 01629 535353 if the child’s primary residence under the arrangement is in Derbyshire. If not, we will make contact with the relevant Local Authority Children’s Services contact and referral point

If, upon taking advice, it is confirmed a child is living in a private fostering arrangement, a referral will be made by the Designated Safeguarding Lead into the relevant children’s social care team. Immediate concerns for a child’s safety or welfare will be referred without delay as with all child protection concerns.

Information required for making a referral includes:

- Full names and date of birth for the child
- Address and daytime phone numbers for the current carer including mobiles
- Relationship to the child eg- neighbour, friend, extended family member (by definition of a private fostering arrangement)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 should be included in a referral about a possible Privately Fostered child or young person:

- Address and daytime phone number of the parent/ parental responsibility holder any known previous address
- Address and phone numbers of any other family members linked to the child in this arrangement and particularly if under 16
- Any details of anyone else involved in making this arrangement
- Any known addresses of the child previous to this current arrangement
- Any other helpful information eg- a chronology to assist an understanding of why this child or young person is not living with the parental responsibility holder. .
- Details of any other concerns relevant to this referral

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

We will assist the Local Authority in their assessments and work as a partner to offer advice and support to the child and carers involved in the arrangement.

Safeguarding Roles and Responsibilities

All staff including Volunteers and Governors have responsibility for the following:

To ask parents /carers questions around their relationship with any student if the relationship is unclear, confusing or concerning.

To follow up any discussion with any student about their living arrangement when it is unclear, confusing or concerning.

We as a school will commit to reviewing on a regular basis, our emergency contacts and details of who has parental responsibility on our school records and will pursue any anomalies with that parent or carer. We may then ask questions of any student about the nature of their relationship to that adult.

We will have robust consent/trips/outings letters which clearly define the child's relationship to the adult giving consent and identify their status to that student including details of any legal order.

Where a child or young person is living in a Private Fostering arrangement, we will 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 they are privately fostered.

Where possible, we will also assist with advising and supporting the carer(s) to undertake their duties whilst the child or young person is living with them in a Privately Fostered arrangement.

Training

The Designated Safeguarding Lead/s will endeavour to read and cascade information on Private Fostering to school staff on a regular basis and as part of annual training/updates.

All Designated Safeguarding Leads will undertake the DSCB Private Fostering e-learning module ensuring a copy of their certificate is held on the School Safeguarding Training Portfolio: <https://derbyshire.learningpool.com/login/index.php>

Management of the Policy

The SDL/s will ensure they are familiar with this policy regularly updating all staff, governors and volunteers regarding the legal requirements and duties.

The SDL/S will endeavour to read and provide information on Private Fostering to Academy staff on a regular basis.

The SDL/s will undertake the e-learning module made available on Private Fostering and print the certificate for the Academy safeguarding training portfolio.

The Principal will ensure that Private Fostering forms part of staff safeguarding induction and is used in safeguarding training in the Academy.

The Principal will report on issues relating to Private Fostering and any impact for the Academy to the Governing Body.

The Governing Body will oversee the policy, ensure its implementation and review its content on an annual basis in line with the S175 School Safeguarding audit.

Private Fostering

- is an arrangement to care for a child made between a parent and another adult.
- applies to children up to 16 years old (18 if disabled)

The law says:

Parents have to tell us in writing:

- Six weeks before it is due to start
- 48 hours after it has begun.

Any professional aware of a private fostering arrangement should Call Derbyshire on 01629 533190.

It counts as private fostering if:

- The adult is not a close relative (cousins, great-aunts and great-uncles are not close relatives)
- The child has moved in with someone that the parent is happy for them to live with
- The child is under 16, seeking asylum and intends to live with someone in their extended family and friend network
- It is expected to last more than 28 days
- The child is from another country and staying with a host family for 28 days or more.

It is not private fostering if:

- The adult is a close relative – such as a grandparent or sibling
- It lasts less than 28 days.

We must:

- Carry out written assessments, visits and reviews – like those for looked-after children. See Framework 1 under 'new episode'
- Be aware of trafficking. Is there a genuine link between the child and the carers?
- Tell the parents if there are concerns about the arrangement, before or during.



www.derbyshire.gov.uk/PrivateFosteringELearning

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County Council
Improving life for local people