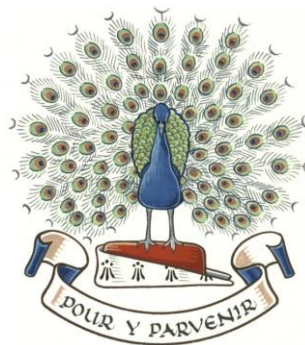


LADY MANNERS SCHOOL

PRIVATE FOSTERING POLICY



AIMS STATEMENT

At Lady Manners School we strive to attain the highest standards in our work, have respect for others and develop our individual talents.

1. INTRODUCTION AND CONTEXT

Most children and young people spend some time away from their home staying with relatives and friends. In cases where children/young people may stay for longer period of time special procedures may apply.

If a child or young person is under 16 (or if disabled under 18) and living with a family member or friend for longer than 28 days this is then seen as Private Fostering. This does not have to be continuous; if a child/young person is staying with family members or friends that add up to 28 days or longer in any period of time this may then be seen as Private Fostering.

Private Fostering is an arrangement made by the parent with the carer who has agreed to look after the child/young person on their behalf. In some circumstances they may not have agreed or the circumstances of their living arrangements raises health, welfare and safety concerns for the child/young person.

1.1 Our Responsibilities

At Lady Manners School we fully recognise responsibilities regarding Private Fostering, ensuring that staff are fully aware about how to identify a child/young person and the circumstances around Private Fostering. This includes a duty to report any instances to the Local Authority if it is believed the child/young person is possibly living in a Private Fostering arrangement.

This policy should be read in conjunction with "How to Identify a Privately Fostered Child" Appendix A, found at the end of this policy and for more information guidance can be found via the following link: [Derbyshire County Council - Private Fostering](#)

Furthermore, we will follow the procedures set out by the [Derbyshire Safeguarding Children's Board, section 1.6.10:](#) http://derbyshirescbs.proceduresonline.com/p_ch_living_away.html#priv_fostering

1.2 Our Policy

Under the Children Act, 1989, the Local Authority has a duty to make sure 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.

Lady Manners School will ensure all staff, governors and volunteers in the school 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 Foster arrangement it is the responsibility of that person to report this to the Safeguarding Designated Person and this person may need to make further enquiries to try to establish this.

The Safeguarding Designated Person should seek advice from Children's Social Care as to whether the child or young person is a privately fostered child under the regulations. If so, a referral must be made to Children's Social Care.

Essential information for making a referral includes:

- Full names and dates of birth for the child;
- Address and daytime phone numbers for the current carer including mobiles;
- 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 may be essential in a referral about a possible Privately Fostered child or young person:

- Address and daytime phone number of the parent/ parental responsibility holder
- Address and phone numbers of any other family members
- Any other helpful information about the parent/parental responsibility to assist an understanding of why this child or young person is not living with them.

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

2. SAFEGUARDING ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

All staff, volunteers and governors have responsibility for the following:

- To ask parents/carers questions about their relationship with the child/young person if this is unclear, confusing or concerning.

- To follow up any discussion with a child/young person about their living arrangement when it is unclear, confusing or concerning.
- To have robust consent/trips/outings letters which clearly define the child's relationship to the adult giving consent.

If a child or young person is living in a Private Fostering arrangement:

- To work with, monitor & report to the Local Authority ensuring the child/young person's needs, safety & welfare are being met whilst in a Private Fostering arrangement.
- To assist with advising and supporting the carer to undertake their duties whilst the child or young person is living in such an arrangement.

3. MANAGEMENT OF THE POLICY

The Senior Designated Person is familiar with this policy and ensure all staff, governors and volunteers are aware and familiar with the legal requirements, and duties.

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

The Headteacher will report on issues relating to private Fostering and any impact for the school 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 Safeguarding audit.

Appendix A
PRIVATE FOSTERING ARRANGEMENTS**How to identify a private fostering arrangements and what to do next****A privately fostered child is one who is:**

- Under the age of 16 (18 if disabled)
- Living with someone other than a parent, person with parental responsibility, grandparent, aunt, uncle, sibling or step parent
- With the intention that it last for 28 days or longer - either as a single episode or cumulatively

This means:

- The Local Authority is not involved in making the arrangement
- The child is not in care

There is a duty under the Children Act to notify the Local Authority of a private fostering arrangement - this duty applies to:

- Any parent or other person with parental responsibility proposing to place a child in a private fostering arrangement
- Any person proposing to privately foster a child
- Any other person involved in the proposed arrangement
- Education, health and other professionals who become aware that the child will enter into a private fostering arrangement

Universal children's services - such as primary care, health visiting, school nursing, schools and early years, voluntary sector - are especially well placed to identify children who are not living with a parent who may be privately fostered. Below is a simple question and answer format for checking whether or not this may be the case.

How to identify possible private fostering arrangement

Is the child aged under 16 years (18 if disabled)?	YES NO	If NO, the child cannot be privately fostered
Is he or she living with a parent/person with parental responsibility or a close relative - aunt, uncle, step-parent, grandparent, sibling but not a cousin or great-aunt/uncle	YES NO	If YES the child cannot be privately fostered
Is he or she adopted or in care, subject to special guardianship or a residence order?	YES NO	If YES the child cannot be privately fostered
Has the child been living with person providing accommodation of 28 days or longer; or is the child planning to, or is likely to, be living with the person providing accommodation for 28 days or longer - either as a single stay or cumulatively	YES NO	If YES the child is/may be privately fostered

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