



Private Fostering Statement

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What is Private Fostering?

Private fostering is when a child or young person under the age of 16, or 18 if they have a disability, is being cared for by someone who is not a parent or close relative for 28 days or more. Close relatives include parents, step-parents (by marriage or civil partnership), siblings, aunts, uncles, and grandparents.

This may apply in situations where:

- A child lives with a friend's family following a breakdown at home
- A young person is living with a partner's family
- Children are sent to the UK for education or medical care
- Parents work or study long hours, so another adult cares for the child

Our Responsibility

Bracken Hill School is committed to safeguarding all our pupils and promoting their welfare. We recognise our legal duty to inform the relevant local authority if we become aware of a private fostering arrangement.

All staff are trained to recognise the signs of private fostering and will:

- Report any concerns to the Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL) using MyConcern
- Work in partnership with parents and carers where appropriate
- Ensure the DSL contacts the relevant local authority children's services based on the child's home address

While many of our pupils live in Nottinghamshire, we also support children from other local authority areas. The DSL will ensure referrals are made to the appropriate local authority.

Why This Matters

Children in private fostering arrangements may be more vulnerable to risks such as neglect, exploitation, or isolation. It is important that these arrangements are properly assessed to ensure the child is safe and well cared for.

Sharing this information does not breach confidentiality, it helps to safeguard children.

Who to Contact

If you believe a pupil may be in a private fostering arrangement, please contact the Designated Safeguarding Lead.

For pupils who live in Nottinghamshire, the Designated Safeguarding Lead will contact:

Nottinghamshire Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH)

☎ 0300 500 80 90

For further information, please see our Safeguarding and Child Protection Policy.