



**Comberton  
Primary School**

*A caring community  
for all to shine*

# **Comberton Primary School**

## **Private Fostering Policy**

Date policy last reviewed: Sep 2025

Signed by:

Deena Frost

Headteacher

Date: Sep 2025

Stephen Deakin

Chair of governors

Date: Sep 2025

## Legal framework

This policy has due regard to all relevant legislation and statutory guidance including, but not limited to, the following:

- Children Act 1989
- Children Act 2004
- The Children (Private Arrangements for Fostering) Regulations 2005
- DfE (2018) 'Working Together to Safeguard Children'
- DfE (2025) 'Keeping children safe in education 2025'

This policy operates in conjunction with the following school policies:

- Child Protection and Safeguarding Policy
- Admissions Policy

## Awareness of private fostering law

**Private fostering** is when a child under the age of 16, or under 18, if the child is disabled, is provided with care and accommodation for 28 days or more by a person who is not a parent, person with parental responsibility or a relative in their own home. It is not considered private fostering if the arrangements have been in place for less than 28 days and the person(s) providing care does not intend to do so for longer.

- A close relative is an aunt, uncle, stepparents, grandparent or sibling, but not a cousin, great aunt or uncle or a family friend.
- A private fostering arrangement is usually organised by the parent and the carer. There are many private fostering situations. They may involve children or young people:
  - a) Who are sent to this country for education or health care by their birth parents from overseas
  - b) Whose parents work or study long antisocial hours
  - c) Who are living with a friend's family as a result of parental separation, divorce or arguments at home
  - d) Who are living with their partner's family

Governors, the SLT and staff will be made aware that it is a legal requirement for the LA to be notified that a child is being privately fostered by those who are involved, directly or indirectly, in setting up this arrangement so it can assess the suitability of the private foster carer, including visits every 90 days to ensure the child remains safe. This legal responsibility to notify the LA will usually fall on the child's parents and the private foster carer(s) who will be caring for the child.

Where private fostering arrangements come to the attention of the school, and the school is not involved in the arrangements, the governing board will notify the LA to allow it to check the arrangement is suitable and safe for the child.

## **Our responsibilities**

We at Comberton Primary School fully understand our responsibilities in regard to children living in private fostering situations. We understand that we have a duty to report any private fostering to the Local Authority. Annual safeguarding training to staff includes private fostering awareness.

## **How to identify a privately fostered child and what to do next.**

A privately fostered child is one who is:

- Under the age of 16 (18 if disabled)
- Living with someone who isn't a parent or person with parental responsibility or close relative or step parents
- With the intention that it should last for 28 days or longer-either as a single episode or cumulatively
- The local authority is not involved with making the arrangements
- 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 private fostering arrangements
- Any person proposing to privately foster a child
- Any other person involved in the proposed arrangement
- Education, health and other professionals who become aware of a possible private fostering arrangement where they are not satisfied that the local authority have been, or will be, notified.

**In school, if you believe a child is in or that there is a proposal that the child will be in, a private fostering arrangement you should let the Designated Safeguarding Lead, Mrs Deena Frost (head teacher) know as soon as possible.**

## **Why do we need to monitor private fostering arrangements?**

It is believed that these arrangements are under reported in Worcestershire. Private fostering arrangements may pose a safeguarding risk to the children.

## **Monitoring and Review**

This policy is reviewed every 2 years by the DSL and the headteacher.

Any changes made to this policy will be communicated to all relevant stakeholders.

All members of staff are required to familiarise themselves with all processes and procedures outlined in this policy as part of their induction programme.

The next scheduled review date for this policy is September 2027.

