



# Straits Primary School Private Fostering policy

Private fostering is when a child or young person aged 16 or under (or 18 if they are disabled) is cared for and provided with accommodation by an adult who is not a close relative.

- 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

### Our responsibilities

We at Straits 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.

### 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 of disabled).
- Living with someone who isn’t a parents 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, Mr Freear (head teacher) know as soon as possible.**

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

Private fostering arrangements may pose a safeguarding risk to the children.

Signed by:

Chair of Governing Body: .....

Date: .....

Head teacher: .....

Date: .....

Agreed at the Full Governing Body Meeting on: .....