



Safeguarding Statement

Safeguarding - a definition

Safeguarding is summarised within the Children Act 2004 as:

- protecting children and young people from maltreatment;
- preventing impairment of children and young people's health or development;
- ensuring that children and young people are growing up in circumstances consistent with the provision of safe and effective care;
- undertaking that role so as to enable those children and young people to have optimum life chances and to enter adulthood successfully.

Safeguarding includes the establishment and implementation of procedures to protect children from deliberate harm. A school's child protection procedures, safer recruitment practices and the maintenance of a robust single central record remain key requirements.

However, safeguarding also encompasses all aspects of pupils' health, safety and well-being including:-

- the rigour with which absences are followed up;
- adopting appropriate arrangements to ensure the security of school premises;
- ensuring freedom from bullying, including any form of abuse, harassment and discrimination;
- implementing appropriate procedures to manage any complex or challenging behaviour, including the use of physical intervention to safeguard pupils and staff;
- providing effective guidance to pupils on risky behaviours and having robust procedures for dealing with them, including drug and substance misuse and internet safety;
- having robust procedures to ensure pupils' safety when engaged in learning beyond the classroom, such as educational visits or work experience;
- meeting the needs of pupils with medical conditions, including the provision of intimate care;
- ensuring that safe working practices are adopted by all staff;
- providing first aid;
- dealing with any issues which may be specific to a local area or population, for example gang activity.

At our school, the safety and wellbeing of all children is of paramount importance. Parents send their children to school each day with the expectation that school provides a secure environment in which they children can flourish and fulfil their potential. Various policies and procedures are in place in order to achieve this, including:

- Single Central Record of recruitment and vetting checks for all staff
- Health and Safety Policy
- External Visits procedures and risk Assessments
- Behaviour, Attendance and Anti-Bullying policies
- Child Protection Policy
- Acceptable Use of ICT Agreement
- Equality Statement
- SEN(D) Policy

- Safer Recruitment & Induction
- Staff and visitor ID badges worn at all times, with DSL and DDSL information
- Student ID badges worn at all times
- Safe working and lone-working practices
- Whistleblowing Policy

A safeguarding culture begins and ends with the **students**. Students demonstrate the effectiveness of any procedures through their behaviour across the school day. Our school will ensure that there are regular, planned opportunities within the curriculum for aspects of safeguarding to be explored with students, at an age appropriate level.

Parents must be genuine partners in ensuring that agreed procedures are implemented. Some procedures may be 'inconvenient' for some parents. However, students' safety cannot be compromised, so school will, wherever possible, seek to involve parents regularly in formulating and agreeing any improvements to procedures.

Staff are the most important factor in implementing procedures around safeguarding, so we will ensure that they are given regular training as required and high quality, transparent information supports them in carrying out these important duties effectively and consistently.

Records are maintained detailing how and when staff receive training. The Designated Child Protection Officer/Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL) – Mrs Mukherjee – or Deputy Designated Safeguarding Lead (DDSL) – Mr Davies, Mr Wehrle, Mr Taylor and Mrs Hayton - are in charge of informing or reminding staff of any aspects of safeguarding that may need more attention during a particular day or week.

Ultimately the headteacher, in partnership with the governing body, is accountable for the effectiveness of safeguarding procedures.

Monitoring and Evaluation

The Local Authority "Safeguarding Audit For Schools" is used in order to monitor and evaluate the robustness of our existing procedures. Any deficiencies that may be identified are reported back to the Governing Body, remedial action undertaken and the impact of the changes discussed and minuted.

In the context of the ever-changing population of school, it is essential that safeguarding procedures are regularly revisited in a systematic way, within the curriculum for students and through staff and governor training and induction. It is also essential that different aspects of safeguarding are subject to regular monitoring checks, some of which are usefully 'unannounced'. In this way, our school will ensure that critical safeguards are fully embedded into our practice and culture and any gaps are identified.