



Approved by Personnel Committee: 19 September 2023 (unchanged)
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(Following HCC Schools Child Protection and Statutory Review Service model policy updated in Sept 2019)

Review schedule: annual
Review date: Oct 2024

St Andrew's CE Primary School

Much Hadham



'Life in All Its Fullness – Come and See' John 10:10,1:39



Safeguarding Policy

Policy Review

This policy will be reviewed in full by the Governing Body annually.

The policy was last reviewed and agreed by the Governing Body on 30 November 2022.

It is due for review in Autumn 2023.

Signature

Date

Mrs Caroline Dimond - Headteacher

Signature

Date

Mrs Lindsay Steel - Chair of Governors

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1. INTRODUCTION

Safeguarding is 'everyone's responsibility'. This policy sets out St Andrew's CE Primary School and Nursery's responsibilities under the Children Act 2004 to ensure children, young people and adults at risk are kept safe from harm.

Terminology:

Safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children refers to:

- **protecting children from maltreatment**
- **preventing impairment of children's health or development**
- **ensuring children are growing up in circumstances consistent with the provision of safe and effective care**

The aim of **safeguarding** is to enable children to have optimum life chances and to enter adulthood successfully.

What's the difference between Safeguarding and Child Protection?

Safeguarding is an 'umbrella' term that incorporates child protection. **Child Protection** is the process and activities undertaken to fulfil statutory obligations to protect specific children who have been identified as suffering, or at risk of, significant harm. All agencies and individuals should proactively **safeguard and promote** the welfare of children so that the need for action to protect children from harm is reduced.

This policy is available in the school office and is included in the Staff Safeguarding Statutory Reading File and on our school website.

2. PRINCIPLES AND AIMS

Our Principles:

- The welfare of children, and their wishes and feelings are afforded consideration when developing and carrying out school activities
- All children will have equal rights to support and protection irrespective of their ethnicity, race, age, disability, gender, gender identity, language, sexual orientation, religion and belief
- All staff and volunteers have a professional role to identify and respond to the needs of children and report any concerns immediately.

We aim:

- To provide all staff (employed, contracted and visiting) with the necessary information/training to enable them to meet their statutory responsibilities to promote and safeguard the wellbeing of children
- To provide parents, carers and children with information about the school's arrangements to keep children safe
- To ensure safe and consistent best practice across the school
- To demonstrate the school's commitment with regard to safeguarding children.

3. FRAMEWORK

This policy has been devised in accordance with the following legislation and guidance:

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Arrangements for Managing Allegations of Abuse Against People Who Work With Children or Those Who Are in A Position of Trust, Hertfordshire Safeguarding Children Partnership Interagency Procedures Manual http://hertsscb.proceduresonline.com/chapters/p_manage_alleg.html |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Disqualification under the Childcare Act 2006 Statutory guidance for local authorities, maintained schools, independent schools, academies and free schools, DfE (February 2015) www.gov.uk/government/publications/disqualification-under-the-childcare-act-2006 |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Education Act 2002 Section 175 – requires local education authorities and the governors of maintained schools and further education (FE) colleges to make arrangements to ensure that their functions are carried out with a view of safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children. Section 157 and the Education (Independent Schools Standards) (England) Regulations 2003 - require proprietors of independent schools (including academies and technology colleges) to have arrangements to safeguard and promote the welfare of children who are pupils at the school. |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Guidance for Safer Working Practice, Safer Recruitment Consortium (May 2019) |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Information Sharing: Advice for practitioners, DfE (July 2018) |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Keeping Children Safe in Education, DfE (September 2022) |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Sexual Offences Act, HM Government (2003) |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Teachers' Standards 2012, DfE (July 2011) These standards set the minimum requirements for teachers' practice and conduct. Teachers, including Headteachers should safeguard children's wellbeing and maintain public trust in the teaching profession as part of their professional duties. |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none">• What to do if you're worried a child is being abused, DfE (March 2015) Non statutory advice which helps everyone who works with children to identify abuse and neglect and take appropriate action <insert here where a copy of this can be found in the school > |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Working Together to Safeguard Children: A guide to inter-agency working to safeguard and promote the welfare of children, DfE (2015) |

RELEVANT ASSOCIATED POLICIES

In order to safeguard and promote the welfare of children, this policy should also be read in

conjunction with other associated policies to ensure the safety and wellbeing of children.

Note: *You may wish to alter this section so that it relates specifically to your school.*

- Attendance
- Child Protection
- Complaints procedure
- Confidentiality Declaration
- Educational visits including overnight stays (on-line registration through EVOLVE)
- Employee Wellbeing
- On-line safety including Acceptable Use Statements
- Privacy Notices for all stakeholders
- Harassment and Bullying including racial abuse
- Health and Safety including site security and first aid
- Inclusion
- Intimate Care Procedure EYFS
- Preventing Extremism & Radicalisation Policy- PREVENT Duty
- Pupil Behaviour, Anti-Bullying and Discipline
- Pupil Mobile Phone and Smart Watch
- Reducing the Need for Restrictive Intervention in Schools
- Relationships at Work (Staff)
- Relationships, Health and Education, inc Sex Ed
- Safer Recruitment
- Safer Working Practice Guidance
- SEND
- Social Media
- Staff and Governor Code of Conduct
- Supporting Pupils with Medical Conditions
- Transition
- Volunteer
- Whistle-blowing

4. SAFEGUARDING THEMES

Anti-Bullying

St Andrew's CE Primary School and Nursery recognises the right of our children and young people to develop with confidence in an environment that is safe and free from the emotional and physical distress that can be seen as a result of bullying. It is the responsibility of St Andrew's CE Primary School and Nursery to ensure that procedures are in place that will monitor and address anti-bullying issues. There is a more detailed Pupil Behaviour, Anti-Bullying and Discipline Policy available on the school website and a hard copy is available on request.

Attendance

In accordance with the School's Attendance Policy, absences are rigorously pursued and recorded. The school, in partnership with the appropriate agencies, takes action to pursue and address all unauthorised absences in order to safeguard the welfare of children and young people in its care. We implement the statutory requirements in terms of monitoring and reporting children missing from education (CME), off-rolling and understand how important this practice is in safeguarding children and young people.

Child Protection

There is a detailed Child Protection Policy operating within the school. A copy will be provided to parents on request and is available on the school website. It is the Governing Body's duty to ensure the policy is reviewed annually and any deficiencies within the policy addressed immediately.

All Child Protection concerns will be managed in accordance with the Hertfordshire Safeguarding Children Partnership Inter-Agency Child Protection Procedures. A copy of these procedures can be found on the Hertfordshire Safeguarding Children Partnership website.

Children's Services telephone number **0300 123 4043 (including out of hours)**

Complaints

The school has a Complaints Procedure available to parents, pupils and staff who wish to report concerns. This can be found on the school website.

All reported concerns will be taken seriously and considered within the relevant and appropriate process. Anything that constitutes an allegation against a member of staff or volunteer will be dealt with under the specific procedures for Managing Allegations Against Staff.

Confidentiality

The School's Confidentiality Declaration is available from the school office.

All staff will understand that safeguarding issues warrant a high level of confidentiality, not only out of respect for the child and staff involved, but also to ensure that information being released into the public domain does not compromise evidence.

Safeguarding information will be stored and handled in line with the Data Protection Act 2018. The Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL) will normally obtain consent from the parent to share sensitive information with outside agencies. Where there is good reason to do so (e.g. to help to protect a child), the DSL may share information without consent and will make clear records of the reason for the information being shared. Safeguarding records are normally exempt from the disclosure provisions of the Data Protection Act, which means that children and parents do not have an automatic right to see them. The

School will retain this information on the pupil file and transfer to the next school/archive. The school will only share information about children with adults who have parental responsibility for that child. Please see Hertfordshire's Pupil Safeguarding Records Guidance at http://www.thegrid.org.uk/info/welfare/child_protection/proformas/index.shtml for further information.

Curriculum

Children are taught to understand and manage risk through our Relationships and Health Education (RHE), Relationships and Sex Education lessons as well as through all aspects of school life. From September 2019 our school has been following the Jigsaw scheme of work for RHE.

The school is committed to ensuring that children are aware of behaviour towards them that is not acceptable and how they can keep themselves safe. All children know that we have senior members of staff with responsibility for child protection and they are made aware of whom these persons are. We inform children of whom they might talk to, both in and out of school, their right to be listened to and heard and what steps can be taken to protect them from harm.

Subjects such as RHE discuss relevant safeguarding issues with the children. Please see the online safety section (below) of this policy for further details on this topic.

Online Safety

We have an Online Safety Policy which can be found on the school website.

Our policy includes how we teach children to stay safe when using the internet in and out of school, including the risks of sharing content and images online and tackling bullying, including cyber bullying. Cyber-bullying by children, via texts and emails, will be treated as seriously as any other type of bullying and will be managed through our anti-bullying procedures.

The School will ensure that appropriate filtering methods are in place to ensure that children are safe from all types of inappropriate and unacceptable materials, including terrorist and extremist material.

Digital images:

The use of digital images in schools is a complex area. The school has a clear and sufficiently detailed Online Safety Policy which covers the taking and use of digital images and video of children and takes steps to ensure that it is understood and enforced.

The school recognises the importance and usefulness of including the children's use of technology within the classroom, such as an iPad/tablet/laptop. With this brings lots of opportunities for children across all age ranges to explore and learn in an explorative and creative way. The use of a technology item, such as an iPad/tablet/laptop, is likely to have a camera and children will be using the camera as part of their learning experience. However, the use of these devices can also present risks if children are left to use the equipment in an unsupervised environment. It is therefore understood that the school will

ensure that usage of any device within the school will be supervised by an adult at all times.

Staff and children sign our ICT Acceptable Use Agreements. This includes a section for staff on the use of digital images and clarification about the position regarding the use of personal mobile phones/cameras for taking pictures. Where volunteers are supporting school staff, they should abide by the same rules as school staff as far as is reasonable.

Health and Safety

We have a Health & Safety Policy which demonstrates the consideration we give to minimising any risk to the children when on the school premises and when undertaking activities out of school under the supervision of our staff. At all times there has to be appropriate staffing levels and when off-site, appropriate and agreed pupil / adult ratios are maintained. The lead adult always assesses visits/trips as to the level of risk and all trips are finally authorised by the Headteacher.

Our school has lone working risk assessments in place and procedures for staff where there is a security risk due to the need to work alone; staff at high risk will receive appropriate training.

A copy of the Health and Safety Policy is available on the School website.

Inclusion and Diversity

Some children may be at increased risk of neglect and or abuse. Many factors can contribute to an increase in risk, including prejudice and discrimination, isolation, social exclusion, communication issues and reluctance on the part of some adults to accept that abuse can occur.

Our school ethos promotes and accepts the differences between all children and adults. In practice this is about ensuring inclusion of individuals and treating them fairly and equally, no matter the diversity of their race, ethnicity, gender and gender identity, language, age, disability, religion and belief or sexual orientation.

Promoting equality and diversity in education is essential for both teachers and children. The aim is to create a classroom environment where all children can thrive together and understand that individual characteristics make people unique and not 'different' in a negative way.

In line with Keeping Children Safe in Education (DfE 2022) we aim to ensure that all of our pupils receive equal protection. We will also give special consideration to additionally vulnerable groups (as outlined in our Child Protection Policy), for example children with disabilities or special educational needs. Special consideration is also given in the provision of safeguarding information and resources in accessible formats for children and adults with communication needs.

Managing Allegations Against Staff & Volunteers

Our aim is to provide a safe and supportive environment which secures the well-being and very best outcomes for the children at our school. We do recognise that sometimes the behaviour and actions of adults may lead to an allegation of abuse being made.

Allegations sometimes arise from a differing understanding of the same event, but when they occur, they are distressing and difficult for all concerned. We also recognise that many allegations are genuine and there are some adults who deliberately seek to harm or abuse children.

We will take all possible steps to safeguard our children and to ensure that the adults in our school are safe to work with children. We will always ensure that the procedures outlined in Hertfordshire Safeguarding Children Partnership Inter-agency Procedures and Part 4 of 'Keeping Children Safe in Education', DfE (2022) are adhered to and will seek appropriate advice from the Local Authority Designated Officer (LADO). The Hertfordshire LADO Service can be contacted on **0300 123 4043**.

Partnership with Other Services

Our school recognises that it is essential to establish positive and effective working relationships with other agencies who are part of the Hertfordshire Safeguarding Children Partnership. There is a joint responsibility on all these agencies to share information to ensure the safeguarding of all children.

Partnership with Parents

St Andrew's CE Primary School and Nursery is committed to working in partnership with parents/carers to safeguard and promote the welfare of children and to support them to understand our statutory responsibilities in this area.

The school shares a purpose with parents to educate, keep children safe from harm and have their welfare promoted. We are committed to working with parents positively, openly and honestly. St Andrew's will share with parents, in a discrete manner, any concerns we may have about their child unless to do so may place a child at risk of harm. Any further actions that the school may take will be communicated to parents as appropriate.

See Appendix 1 for the pro-forma letter for person reporting a safeguarding concern.

We encourage parents to discuss any concerns they may have with the Headteacher, Caroline Dimond.

Safer Recruitment and Selection

Our recruitment process selects, screens, trains and supervises staff and volunteers so that unsuitable people can be deterred and rejected from working with children.

A copy of our Safer Recruitment Policy is available from the school office.

The School has a legal duty to refer to the Disclosure and Barring Service anyone who has harmed, or poses a risk of harm, to a child, or if there is reason to believe the member of staff has committed one of a number of listed offences, and who has been removed from working (paid or unpaid) in regulated activity, or would have been removed had they not left. If these circumstances arise in relation to a member of staff at our school, a referral will be made as soon as possible after the resignation or removal of the individual in accordance with advice from the Local Authority Designated Officer (LADO) and/or HCC HR.

Our school also adhere to the most recent guidance issued by The Department for Education regarding persons who are disqualified under the Childcare Act 2006.

Safer Working Practice

All adults who come into contact with our children have a duty of care to safeguard and promote their welfare. There is a legal duty placed upon us to ensure that all adults who work with or on behalf of our children are competent, confident and safe to do so.

The Teachers' Standards (DfE 2011) are augmented by standards of personal and professional conduct e.g. ethics and behaviour, in and out of school. Teachers are expected to 'uphold public trust in the profession by showing tolerance and respect for the rights of others, not undermining fundamental British values and ensuring that personal beliefs are not expressed in ways which exploit pupils' vulnerability'.

All staff will be provided with a copy of our school's Code of Conduct Policy and the file of Safeguarding Statutory reading for staff at induction. All staff and volunteers are expected to carry out their work in accordance with this guidance and will be made aware that failure to do so could lead to disciplinary action.

The link below will direct you to the current government guidance on safer working practice which we share with staff:

<https://oliver-uploads.s3.amazonaws.com/2019/05/24/08/07/50/36/Guidance%20to%20Safer%20Working%20Practices.pdf>

Abuse of Position of Trust:

All school staff are aware that inappropriate behaviour towards pupils is unacceptable and that their conduct towards pupils must be beyond reproach.

In addition, staff should understand that, under the Sexual Offences Act 2003, it is an offence for a person aged 18 or over intentionally to behave in certain sexual ways in relation to a child aged under 18, where the adult is in a position of trust in respect of the child, even if the behavior is consensual.

Security

The security measures put into place at St Andrew's CE Primary School and Nursery have taken into account the need to balance the need to remain a welcoming environment whilst ensuring the safety of all our children and staff.

Access to buildings:

The school will take all reasonable efforts to control access to the buildings and grounds of the school to prevent unauthorised access to children and ensure the personal safety of staff. The access control procedures for the buildings are:

The main entrance into school is via Tower Hill with subsidiary entrances via the gate behind the Almshouses and the gate into EYFS. During the school day access is via the school office on Tower Hill for identification and signing in before entering school.

Visitors, contractors and maintenance personnel:

The control of visitors, contractors and maintenance personnel is a fundamental part of our site security for the safeguarding of both people and property.

Where the Governing Body transfers control or otherwise allows the use of school premises to external bodies (such as sports clubs) or service providers during or out of school hours, we will ensure that these bodies or providers have appropriate safeguarding policies and procedures, and that there are arrangements in place to co-ordinate with the school on such matters. Such considerations will be made explicit in any contract or service level agreement with the bodies or providers.

Appropriate checks will be undertaken in respect of visitors and volunteers coming into school. Visitors will be expected to sign in and out via the office visitors log and to display a visitor's badge whilst on school site. Any individual who is not known or identifiable should be challenged for clarification and reassurance.

The school will not accept the behaviour of any individual (parent or other) that threatens school security or leads others (child or adult) to feel unsafe. Such behaviour will be treated as a serious concern and may result in a decision to refuse access for that individual to the school site.

Appendix 1- letter for person reporting a safeguarding concern



St Andrew's CE Primary School

Tower Hill
Much Hadham
Herts SG10 6DL

Headteacher: Mrs Caroline Dimond

Tel: 01279 842626

E-mail: admin@standrews236.herts.sch.uk

Date

Dear

Thank you for speaking to me and raising your safeguarding concern. As the Designated Safeguarding Lead I am now responsible for investigating your concern.

I would like to reassure you that I will be taking your concern very seriously and will be investigating the circumstances of your report as fully as possible. I will then act according to our protocol depending on the outcome of my investigation. I will be unable to share this outcome with you.

I would like to remind you that safeguarding is a confidential matter. Please do not share any of the details of your concern either verbally or digitally on social media etc.

If you have any further concerns please do not hesitate to contact me in school, or alternatively call Hertfordshire Children's Services on 0300 123 4043. In case of an emergency call 999.

Kind regards

.....

Mrs Caroline Dimond

Headteacher