

OVERARCHING SAFEGUARDING STATEMENT

The procedures for Safeguarding and Child Protection at St Mark's CE Primary School, Natland are set within the context of the school's overall ethos, vision and aims.

INTRODUCTION

This Safeguarding Statement has been developed in accordance with the principles established by the Children's Acts 1989 and 2004 and related guidance. This includes the DfE 'Keeping Children Safe in Education' (September 2020), the DfE 'Revised Statutory Framework for Early Years Foundation Stage' (2017), Working Together to Safeguard Children (July 2018). The school also follows the guidance and procedures developed by the Cumbria Safeguarding Children Partnership (CSCP).

The Governing Body and staff of St Mark's school take seriously the responsibility to safeguard and promote the welfare of pupils, to minimise risk and to work together with other agencies to ensure adequate arrangements are in place within our school to identify, assess and support those children who are suffering harm and to keep them safe and secure whilst in our care.

We know our close day to day contact with children means we have a crucial role to play in helping identify welfare concerns and indicators of possible abuse and neglect at an early stage.

We regard child protection as the responsibility of **all** staff, governors, trainees, volunteers and visitors.

Safeguarding is fully incorporated into the whole school ethos and is underpinned throughout the teaching of the curriculum and within the physical environment provided for the pupils.

DEFINITION OF SAFEGUARDING

'Working Together to Safeguard Children' defines the term **safeguarding** as 'protecting children from maltreatment; preventing impairment of children's health or development; ensuring that children are growing up in circumstances consistent with the provision of safe and effective care and taking action to enable all children to have the best outcomes'.

We recognise safeguarding is not just about protecting children from deliberate harm. It relates to aspects of school life including pupil's health and safety; the use of reasonable force; meeting the needs of pupils with medical conditions; providing first aid; educational visits; intimate care. It includes all aspects of school security, taking the local context into account.

It includes issues for schools such as neglect, physical abuse, sexual abuse and emotional abuse; sexual violence and harassment between peers; gender based violence; bullying including cyberbullying, prejudice-based bullying; racist, disability, gender based, homophobic or transphobic abuse; It relates to online safety including risks linked to using technology and social media, accessing and generating inappropriate content e.g. sexting, peer on peer abuse, online bullying or grooming, radicalisation and / or extremist behaviour; child sexual exploitation and trafficking; substance misuse and issues which may be specific to the local area or population.

It also includes particular issues affecting children including homelessness, children missing in education; domestic violence, so-called honour-based violence / honour based abuse (female genital mutilation, forced marriage, breast ironing etc.); fabricated or induced illness and poor parenting, particularly in relation to young children (*Inspecting Safeguarding in Early Years, Education and Skills – September 2019*).

This Safeguarding Statement should therefore be understood alongside other school policies which come under the safeguarding 'umbrella' and are listed at the end of this document.

Related policies can be found on the school network: Teacher – Policies - Non-curricular. Copies of policies are also available on request from the school office and many are published on the school website

All relevant policies will be reviewed regularly by the Governing Body (or persons nominated to approve such documents). The Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL) will ensure regular reporting to the Governing Body on safeguarding activity and systems takes place. The Governing Body will not receive details of individual pupil situations as part of their overseeing responsibility. A nominated Governor will liaise with the Local Authority Designated Officer (DO) and partner agencies in the event of allegations of abuse made against the Headteacher or a member of the Governing Body.

Our school is a community and all those directly connected have an essential role to play in making it safe and secure. We welcome comments and suggestions which contribute to this process from all stakeholders.

ETHOS

At St. Mark's C.E. School the health, safety and well-being of all our children regardless of their age, gender, ethnicity or disability is of paramount importance. All children have the right to protection and the right to feel, safe, secure and respected in our school. All children are encouraged to talk openly and feel confident that they will be listened to.

We recognise that children who are abused or witness abuse are likely to have low self-esteem and may find it difficult to develop a sense of self-worth. Our school may be the only stable, secure and predictable element in their lives.

PRACTICE AND PROCEDURE

We will endeavour to support the welfare and safety of all pupils through:

- maintaining children's welfare as our paramount concern.
- ensuring the curriculum includes social and emotional aspects of learning.
- developing and implementing policies for tackling bullying, abuse, harassment and discrimination and ensuring these aspects are covered within the curriculum.
- ensuring aspects of child protection are included within the curriculum to help children stay safe, understand what constitutes a healthy relationship both online and offline and to recognise when they do not feel safe.
- the provision of suitable support and guidance so that pupils have a range of adults whom they might approach and talk to if they are in difficulty.
- promoting a positive, supportive, neutral and secure environment where children can develop a sense of being valued and heard in their own right and where opposing issues and ideologies can be discussed in a controlled manner.

- working with parents to build an understanding of the school's responsibility to ensure the welfare of all children including the need for referral to other agencies in some situations.
- ensuring all staff are able to recognise the signs and symptoms of abuse through ongoing training and support and are aware of the school's procedures and lines of communication.
- ensuring staff are aware of the role of the Designated Safeguarding Lead.
- monitoring children who have been identified as having welfare or protection concerns, particularly those identified as 'carers' and those looked after and previously looked after by the Local Authority.
- keeping and storing confidential records securely and sharing where appropriate with other professionals.
- having arrangements in place to support children with special educational needs or disabilities (SEND) through application of the SEND Code of Practice and having a member of staff who is the identified Special Educational Needs and Disabilities Co-ordinator (SENDCO)
- developing effective and supportive liaison with other agencies.
- provision within the induction process for new staff and governors and further regular training for existing staff and governors on child protection policy, procedures and issues.
- ensuring we practise safe recruitment in checking the suitability of staff, governors and volunteers to work with children.
- promoting their spiritual, moral, social and cultural development and, within this, fundamental 'British' values.
- implementation of safeguarding and health and safety policies including organisation and arrangements for maintaining health, safety and welfare of all those involved with the school, including:
 - assessing risks and implementing effective controls to prevent accidents or incidents
 - ensuring there is sufficient first aid provision in the form of equipment and appropriately trained staff both in school and educational visits.
 - ensuring there is at least one person with a paediatric first aid certificate available for children within the EYFS both in school and on educational visits.
 - ensuring school policy and procedures for Educational Visits, including adequate planning, supervision and risk assessment are adhered to.
 - ensuring the school policy on First Aid, Administration of Medication and Supporting Pupils with Medical Conditions in School is adhered to.
 - ensuring accidents details are recorded, reported and investigated where necessary to prevent similar incidents from occurring.
 - ensuring staff are familiar with the protocols for intimate care and maintaining dignity in line with school policy.
 - ensuring staff, pupils and parents are familiar with the Whole School Behaviour Policy which includes peer on peer abuse, the use of discipline, sanctions and rewards and a focus on preventing and reacting to cases of bullying including cyberbullying.
 - ensuring staff are aware of the definition of reasonable force and when it may be used and that sufficient staff are trained in de-escalation and positive handling techniques.
 - ensure regular inspection and maintenance of the grounds, building and security takes place in order to safeguard pupils, staff and any other users.
 - Inspection and maintenance of equipment, machinery and services is in line with current legislation and manufacturer's instructions by a competent person with records held in the School Buildings Register.
 - ensuring staff receive adequate induction and regular training in areas which maintain the health, safety and wellbeing of themselves and others (including children).

- providing regular instruction in fire safety and opportunities to participate in fire drills.
- ensuring hazardous substances including asbestos materials, radon and legionella risks are managed in line with relevant legislation.
- ensuring fresh drinking water is accessible at all times and other drinks, meals and snacks are healthy, balanced and nutritious.
- obtaining information on children's special dietary requirements, food allergies and health requirements and ensuring all relevant personnel are aware of these.
- ensuring there are suitable facilities for the hygienic preparation of food and ensuring persons responsible for preparing and handling food are competent to do so.
- securely maintaining pupil data, including digital images in line with the Data Protection Act 2018 / General Data Protection Regulations (GDPR) and school procedures.
- ensuring appropriate e-safety protocols are in place including Acceptable Use Agreement for pupils, staff and Governors.
- including internet and communication safety in the curriculum and ensuring the use of technologies by pupils, staff and others is managed in line with school policies.
- ensuring children are adequately supervised before and after school, during the school day, extended schools and off site visits.
- ensuring all vehicles used to transport children have adequate seat belt provision, booster seats are provided in private vehicles for children under 12 years old or of less height than 1m 35cm and drivers transported are adequately insured.
- ensuring children are only released into the care of individuals who have been notified to school staff by the parent and that children do not leave the premises unsupervised.
- ensuring we take all reasonable steps to prevent unauthorised persons entering the premises.
- ensuring staff are proactive in sun safety measures, parents are informed of the school sun safety procedures and the dangers posed by the sun are included within the PSHE and science curriculum.

PARTNERSHIP WITH OTHERS

Schools do not operate in isolation. The welfare of children is the corporate responsibility of the local authority working in partnership with other public agencies, the voluntary sector, service users and carers.

The school recognises it is essential to establish positive and effective relationships with other agencies. Professionals can only work together to safeguard children if relevant information is shared between them. St Mark's CE Primary School follows LA inter-agency safeguarding procedures as endorsed by Cumbria Safeguarding Children Partnership. We work within the Cumbria SCP Multi-Agency Threshold Guidance linked with the Local Authority, the Clinical Commissioning group for this area, the local Police, Children's Centres and the Educational Social Care Service.

Where there is concern a child is suffering from, or at risk of, significant harm, we will follow the referral procedures outlined by the Cumbria Safeguarding Hub and within the school's Child Protection Policy and Procedures.

TRAINING AND SUPPORT

Our school will ensure the Designated Safeguard Lead and the deputy DSL attend suitable child protection training which is updated bi-annually. All staff including the Headteacher, the designated teacher for looked after and previously looked after children, the designated Governor and the

Governing Body attend training which is relevant to their role, updated regularly and equips them to meet their responsibility for child protection effectively.

The Designated Safeguarding Lead and Deputy Designated Safeguarding Lead will undertake Prevent awareness training to enable them to provide advice and support to other members of staff on protecting children from the risk of radicalisation and extremism.

There is a designated Health and Safety Co-ordinator in school who has received appropriate training in relation to their role.

There is a designated Educational Visits Co-ordinator in school who has received appropriate training in planning and managing off-sites visits.

There is a staff training plan and record in place to ensure all relevant staff receive appropriate training as per legislation and good practice to protect both themselves and children. This includes health and safety induction, first aid, supporting pupils with medical needs, asbestos management, fire safety, positive handling (of children), moving and handling (objects), food hygiene and any other training commensurate to their role and responsibility.

PROFESSIONAL CONFIDENTIALITY

Our school has a clear confidentiality policy which forms part of the Child Protection Policy and Procedures. This is reviewed annually by the full Governing body. It is discussed with all staff and shared with all adults working within school (paid and unpaid).

SAFE RECRUITMENT AND SELECTION

The school pays full regard to the DfE statutory guidance 'Keeping Children Safe in Education' (September 2020). The Governing Body will deter and prevent people who pose a risk of harm from working with children by adhering to statutory responsibilities when carrying out appropriate checks on staff or others who work (paid or unpaid) unsupervised with children. Persons without full checks will be appropriately supervised. School has a Recruitment, Selection and Pre-Employment policy and procedure in place. At least one person on any appointment panel has attended safer recruitment training.

RELATED SCHOOL POLICIES

(To be read and followed alongside this document)

- Child Protection Policy
- Safer Recruitment Policy and procedures including the Single Central Record
- Health and Safety Policy
- SEND Policy
- E-Safety Policy
- Data Protection Policy
- Whole School Behaviour Policy; including Peer on Peer Abuse procedure
- Staff Code of Conduct
- Policy for First Aid, Administration of Medication and Supporting Pupils with Medical Conditions in School
- Intimate Care Procedures
- Educational Visits Policy and procedures
- Relationships and Sex Education Policy

- Drug Policy
- Single Equality Scheme and objectives
- Accessibility Plan
- Risk Assessments
- Premises Management including Security Measures (Premises Inspection and Buildings register / maintenance records)
- Letting Arrangements

Reviewed: August 2020

