

Child Protection and Safeguarding Policy

In line with Keeping Children Safe in Education



This policy was updated on 30 January 2018

The policy must be reviewed and updated at least every 12 months.

The Ridgeway CofE Primary School recognises its responsibility for safeguarding and child protection.

Approved: *Julie Jones*

PART 1

1. Introduction

This policy has been developed in accordance with the principles established by the Children Act 1989; and in line with the following:

- Keeping Children Safe in Education” 2016
- “Working Together to Safeguard Children 2015”
- “Framework for the Assessment of Children in Need and their Families” 2000
- “What to do if you are worried a Child is being Abused” 2015
- Oxfordshire Safeguarding Children Board guidelines

The Governing Body takes seriously its responsibility under section 11 of the Children Act and duties under “working together” to safeguard and promote the welfare of children; to work together with other agencies to ensure adequate arrangements exist within our setting to identify, and support those children who are suffering harm or are likely to suffer harm.

We recognise that all staff and governors have a full and active part to play in protecting our pupils from harm, and that the child’s welfare is our paramount concern.

Our school should provide a safe, caring, positive and stimulating environment that promotes the social, physical and moral development of the individual child free from discrimination or bullying where children can learn and develop happily.

This policy applies to all staff, governors and volunteers working in our school.

This policy has been written in line with Keeping Children Safe In Education 2016 All staff will sign to confirm they have read and understood this policy.

2. Terminology

- **Safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children** refers to the process of protecting children from abuse or neglect, preventing the impairment of their health or development, ensuring that children grow up in circumstances consistent with the provision of safe and effective and nurturing care and undertaking that role so as to enable those children to have optimum life chances and to enter adulthood successfully.
- **Child protection** refers to the processes undertaken to meet statutory obligations laid out in the [Children Act 1989](#) and associated guidance (see [Working Together to Safeguard Children, An Interagency Guide to Safeguard and Promote the Welfare of Children](#)) in respect of those children who have been identified as suffering, or being at risk of suffering harm.

- This child protection and safeguarding policy
 - The staff code of conduct (sometimes called staff behaviour policy)
 - The role of the designated lead
 - Keeping children safe in education part 1
 - Whistleblowing policy
 - Managing allegations about staff or volunteers
 - What to do if they have a concern about a child
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- **All** staff members receive appropriate safeguarding and child protection training which is updated at least every 3 years. In addition to this training **all** staff members receive safeguarding and child protection updates, when required but at least annually, to provide them with relevant skills and knowledge to be able to safeguard the children in our setting effectively.
 - **All** staff are made aware of the early help process, and understand their role in this. This includes staff being able to identify emerging problems, liaising with our designated safeguarding lead, sharing information with other professionals to support early identification and assessment and, in some cases, where appropriate, acting as the lead professional in undertaking any early help assessment.
 - **All** staff are aware of the process for making child protection referrals to social care and statutory assessments that may follow, under the Children Act 1989, they also understand the role that may have to play in such assessments.
 - **All** staff know what to do if a child tells them he/she is being abused or neglected. Staff understand how to maintain an appropriate level of confidentiality, whilst at the same time understand the requirement around sharing information appropriately with the designated safeguarding lead and other relevant professionals
 - Staff will never promise a child that they will not tell anyone about the allegation/disclosure that the child has made, as this may ultimately not be in the best interests of the child

6. What school and college staff should look out for

- **All** school and college staff members are aware of the signs of abuse and neglect so they are able to identify children who may be in need of help or protection (see part 2 of this policy for the definitions)
- Departmental advice: What to do if you are worried a child is being abused- Advice for practitioners provides more information on understanding and identifying abuse and neglect.
<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/what-to-do-if-youre-worried-a-child-is-being-abused--2>

9. What school staff should do if they have concerns about another staff member

- If our staff members have concerns about another staff member then this must be referred to the headteacher or principal. Where there are concerns about the headteacher or principal this should be referred to the chair of governors, chair of the management committee or proprietor of an independent school as appropriate. In the event of allegations of abuse being made against the headteacher, where the headteacher is also the sole proprietor of an independent school, allegations should be reported directly to the designated officer(s) at the local authority. Staff may consider discussing any concerns with the school's designated safeguarding lead and make any referral via them. Full details can be found in Part 2 of this guidance.

10. What school staff should do if they have concerns about safeguarding practices within the school or college

- All our staff and volunteers should feel able to raise concerns about poor or unsafe practice and potential failures in the school or college's safeguarding regime and that such concerns will be taken seriously by the senior leadership team.
- Appropriate whistleblowing procedures, which are suitably reflected in staff training and staff behaviour policies, should be in place for such concerns to be raised with the school or college's senior leadership team.
- Where a staff member feels unable to raise an issue with their employer or feels that their genuine concerns are not being addressed, other whistleblowing channels may be open to them:
 - General guidance can be found at- Advice on whistleblowing
 - The NSPCC whistleblowing helpline is available for staff who do not feel able to raise concerns regarding child protection failures internally. Staff can call: 0800 028 0285 – line is available from 8:00 AM to 8:00 PM, Monday to Friday and Email: help@nspcc.org.uk

PART 2

11. Key personnel at our school:

The **designated senior person** for child protection in this school is:

Mr Will Webb

Email: head3231@ridgeway.oxon.sch.uk

Tel: 01235 751254

- A training strategy that ensures all staff, including the head teacher, receive child protection training, with refresher training at three-yearly intervals. The DSL should receive refresher training at two-yearly intervals
- Regular update sessions for staff regarding safeguarding. Keeping staff up to date with any changes and ensuring that safeguarding remains a priority within the setting
- Arrangements to ensure that all temporary staff and volunteers are made aware of the school's arrangements for child protection.
- The governing body nominates a member (normally the chair) to be responsible for liaising with the local authority and other agencies in the event of an allegation being made against the head teacher. An annual report will be submitted to the local authority about how the governing body's duties have been carried out. Any weaknesses or areas of concern will be rectified without delay.

The head teacher:

- Ensures that the safeguarding and child protection policy and procedures are implemented and followed by all staff
- Allocates sufficient time and resources to enable the DSL and deputy to carry out their roles effectively, including the assessment of pupils and attendance at strategy discussions and other necessary meetings
- Ensures that all staff feel able to raise concerns about poor or unsafe practice and that such concerns are handled sensitively and in accordance with the school's whistle blowing procedures
- Ensures that child's safety and welfare is addressed through the curriculum.

The school has ensured that the DSL:

- Is appropriately trained.
- Acts as a source of support and expertise to the school community
- Has an understanding of OSCB procedures.
- Keeps written records of all concerns when noted and reported by staff or when disclosed by a child, ensuring that such records are stored securely and reported onward in accordance with this policy guidance, but kept separately from the child's general file.

- Support the child's development in ways that will foster security, confidence and resilience
- Provide an environment in which children and young people feel safe, secure, valued and respected, feel confident and know how to approach adults if they are in difficulties.
- Provide a systematic means of monitoring children known or thought to be at risk of harm, and ensure we contribute to assessments of need and support plans for those children where appropriate.
- Ensure that detailed and accurate written records of concerns about a child are kept even if there is no need to make an immediate referral. See guidance on record keeping:
 - http://portal.oxfordshire.gov.uk/content/public/CYPF/schools/behaviour_attendance/safeguarding_child_protection/Keeping_Child_Protection_Records.doc

13. Supporting Children

- We recognise that a child who is abused, who witnesses violence or who lives in a violent environment may feel helpless and humiliated, may blame him/herself, and find it difficult to develop and maintain a sense of self-worth.
- We accept that research shows that the behaviour of a child in these circumstances may range from that which is perceived to be normal to aggressive or withdrawn.

Our school will support all children and young people by:

- Encouraging the development of self-esteem and resilience in every aspect of life.
- Promoting a caring, safe and positive environment.
- Liaising and working together with all other support services and those agencies involved in the safeguarding of children.
- Notifying Social Care as soon as there is a significant concern.
- Notifying Social Care when a child/young person attending the centre is privately fostered.
- Providing continuing support to a pupil (about whom there have been concerns) who leaves the school by ensuring that such concerns and school medical records are forwarded under confidential cover to the Designated Person at the pupil's new school immediately.

16. Allegations against staff

- All staff should take care not to place themselves in a vulnerable position with a child. It is always advisable for interviews or work with individual children or parents to be conducted in view of other adults.
- We understand that a child or young person may make an allegation against a member of staff. If such an allegation is made, the member of staff receiving the allegation will immediately inform the centre manager or the most senior member of staff available.
- The manager on all such occasions will discuss the content of the allegation with the Designated Officer for the Local Authority (LADO), **before taking any action.** In our county contact should be made with
 - Alison Beasley, Interim Designated Officer (01865 815956),
 - Donna Crozier, Assistant Designated Officer (01865 816382).
 - LADO team 01865 810603 or
 - Lado.safeguardingchildren@oxfordshire.gov.uk
- If the allegation made to a member of staff concerns the manager themselves, the person receiving the allegation will immediately inform the Chair of the governing body who will consult with LADO, without notifying the manager first.
- The school will follow the procedures for managing allegations against staff, as outlined in keeping children safe in education 2016.
- Suspension of the member of staff against whom an allegation has been made needs careful consideration, and we will consult with LADO and HR.
- Our lettings agreement for other users requires that the organiser will follow LA procedures for managing allegations against staff and, where necessary, the suspension of adults from premises.
- See flowchart appendix B

17. Whistleblowing

- We recognise that children cannot be expected to raise concerns in an environment where staff fail to do so.
- All staff should be aware of their duty to raise concerns about the attitude or actions of colleagues and appropriate advice will be sought from the LADO or Safeguarding Team where necessary.
- See full details in our whistleblowing policy

- assumptions that indicators of possible abuse such as behaviour, mood and injury relate to the child's disability without further exploration;
- children with SEN and disabilities can be disproportionately impacted by things like bullying- without outwardly showing any signs; and
- communication barriers and difficulties in overcoming these barriers.

22. Types of abuse and neglect

All school and college staff should be aware that abuse, neglect and safeguarding issues are rarely standalone events that can be covered by one definition or label. In most cases multiple issues will overlap with one another.

- **Abuse:** a form of maltreatment of a child. Somebody may abuse or neglect a child by inflicting harm or by failing to act to prevent harm. Children may be abused in a family or in an institutional or community setting by those known to them or, more rarely, by others (e.g. via the internet). They may be abused by an adult or adults or another child or children.
- **Physical abuse:** a form of abuse which may involve hitting, shaking, throwing, poisoning, burning or scalding, drowning, suffocating or otherwise causing physical harm to a child. Physical harm may also be caused when a parent or carer fabricates the symptoms of, or deliberately induces, illness in a child.
- **Emotional abuse:** the persistent emotional maltreatment of a child such as to cause severe and adverse effects on the child's emotional development. It may involve conveying to a child that they are worthless or unloved, inadequate, or valued only insofar as they meet the needs of another person. It may include not giving the child opportunities to express their views, deliberately silencing them or 'making fun' of what they say or how they communicate. It may feature age or developmentally inappropriate expectations being imposed on children. These may include interactions that are beyond a child's developmental capability as well as overprotection and limitation of exploration and learning, or preventing the child participating in normal social interaction. It may involve seeing or hearing the ill-treatment of another. It may involve serious bullying (including cyberbullying), causing children frequently to feel frightened or in danger, or the exploitation or corruption of children. Some level of emotional abuse is involved in all types of maltreatment of a child, although it may occur alone.
- **Sexual abuse:** involves forcing or enticing a child or young person to take part in sexual activities, not necessarily involving a high level of violence, whether or not the child is aware of what is happening. The activities may involve physical contact, including assault by penetration (for example rape or oral sex) or non-penetrative acts such as masturbation, kissing, rubbing and touching outside of clothing. They may also include non-contact activities, such as involving children in looking at, or in the production of, sexual images,

- fabricated or induced illness
https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/277314/Safeguarding_Children_in_whom_illness_is_fabricated_or_induced.pdf
- faith abuse
https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/175437/Action_Plan_-_Abuse_linked_to_Faith_or_Belief.pdf
- female genital mutilation (FGM)
<http://www.oscb.org.uk/themes-tools/fgm/> and Annex A
- forced marriage and honour based violence
<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/forced-marriage> and Annex A
- gangs and youth violence
<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/advice-to-schools-and-colleges-on-gangs-and-youth-violence>
- gender-based violence/violence against women and girls (VAWG)
<https://www.gov.uk/government/policies/violence-against-women-and-girls>
- hate
<http://educateagainsthate.com/>
- mental health
<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/mental-health-and-behaviour-in-schools--2>
- missing children and adults strategy
<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/missing-children-and-adults-strategy>
- online safety
<http://schools.oxfordshire.gov.uk/cms/content/internet-safety-and-cyberbullying>
- private fostering
<https://intranet.oxfordshire.gov.uk/cms/team-content/private-fostering>
- preventing radicalisation –
<http://www.oscb.org.uk/themes-tools/prevent-extremism/> and Annex A
- relationship abuse
<https://www.disrespectnobody.co.uk/relationship-abuse/what-is-relationship-abuse/>

Receive

Always stop and listen straight away to someone who wants to tell you about incidents or suspicions of abuse. Listen quietly and actively, giving your undivided attention. Allow silences when needed. Do not show shock or disbelief but take what is said seriously.

Reassure

Stay calm, no judgements, empathise. **Never make a promise that you can keep what a child has said a secret.** Give reassurance that only those who need to know will be told. Reassure the young person that they were right to tell you.

React

React to the student only as far as is necessary for you to establish whether or not you need to refer this matter, but don't interrogate for full details.

Don't ask leading questions – keep the open questions e.g. 'is there anything else you want to say?'

Do not criticize the perpetrator; the student may have affection for him/her.

Explain what you will do next – inform designated teacher, keep in contact.

Record

If possible make brief notes about what they are actually telling you at the time. Keep these notes, however rough they are. If you are unable to make notes at the time write down what was said as soon as you can.

Try to record what was actually said by the student rather than your interpretation of what they are telling you.

Record the date, time, place and any noticeable nonverbal behaviour.

Report

Report the incident to the designated teacher and do not tell any other adults or students what you have been told.

Never attempt to carry out an investigation of suspected abuse by interviewing the young person or any others involved. This is a highly skilled role and any attempts by yourself could affect possible criminal proceedings.

Sexual violence or abuse against children represents a major public health and social welfare problem within UK society, affecting 16% of children under 16. That is approximately 2 million children.

Good practice – Individuals

- Recognise the symptoms and distinguish them from other forms of abuse
- Treat the child/young person as a victim of abuse
- Understand the perspective / behaviour of the child/young person and be patient with them
- Help the child/young person to recognise that they are being exploited
- Collate as much information as possible
- Share information with other agencies and seek advice / refer to Social Care

Good practice – Organisations

- Ensure robust safeguarding policies and procedures are in place which cover CSE
- Promote and engage in effective multi-agency working to prevent abuse
- Work to help victims move out of exploitation
- Cooperate to enable successful investigations and prosecutions of perpetrators

Female Genital Mutilation FGM

FGM is child abuse and a form of violence against women and girls, and therefore should be dealt with as part of existing child safeguarding/protection structures, policies and procedures.

FGM is illegal in the UK. In England, Wales and Northern Ireland, the practice is illegal under the Female Genital Mutilation Act 2003.

Other than in the excepted circumstances, it is an offence for **any person (regardless of their nationality or residence status)** to:

- perform FGM in England, Wales or Northern Ireland (section 1 of the Act);
- assist a girl to carry out FGM on herself in England, Wales or Northern Ireland (section 2 of the Act); and
- Assist (from England, Wales or Northern Ireland) a non-UK person to carry out FGM outside the UK on a **UK national or permanent UK resident** (section 3 of the Act).

Forced marriages (FM)

<http://schools.oxfordshire.gov.uk/cms/sites/schools/files/folders/folders/documents/bhavioursupportservice/SextinginSchools-InformationBooklet.pdf>

Risk assessment

<http://schools.oxfordshire.gov.uk/cms/sites/schools/files/folders/folders/documents/bhavioursupportservice/SextinginSchools-RiskAssessment.pdf>

Staff have concerns about a child or young person

referral not required, setting takes relevant action, possibly including early help and monitors in house

referral made in concerns escalate

DSL or (staff member) make referral to social care/police

Social care makes a decision on how to progress the referral and the type of response required

Child in need of immediate protection (referrer informed)

Section 47 enquiry (referrer informed)

Section 17 enquiry (referrer informed)

No further action required (referrer informed)

Appropriate emergency action taken by police or social care

Identify child at risk of significant harm, will proceed to initial child protection plan (ICPC)

Identify child in need, offer appropriate support to child and family

Setting consider early help assessment, working with other universal services (consider CAF)

At all stages, staff should keep the child's best interest at the forefront of any decisions. the child's circumstances should be kept under review, and re-referrals should be made where appropriate.