



## **Meadowside Primary School**

# **Child Protection Policy and Statement**

Safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children is everyone's responsibility. Everyone who comes into contact with children and their families has a role to play. In order to fulfil this responsibility effectively, all practitioners should make sure their approach is child-centred. This means that they should consider, at all times, what is in the best interests of the child (KSCIE 2019 Part One pg 4)

**Reviewed: September 2020**

**Next Review: September 2021**



## Child Protection Policy Statement of Meadowside Primary School

Meadowside Primary School fully recognises its responsibilities for child protection.

Our policy applies to all staff, governors and volunteers working in the school, in partnership with children, parents/carers and other agencies.

Our school also has a Safeguarding Policy, Allegations of abuse against staff policy and a Code of Conduct for all adults who work with children.

There are three main elements to our policy:

1. **PREVENTION** (positive and safe school environment, careful and vigilant teaching, accessible pastoral care, support to pupils, good adult role models).
2. **PROTECTION** (agreed procedures are followed, staff are trained and supported to respond appropriately and sensitively to safeguarding concerns).
3. **SUPPORT** (to pupils, who may have been at risk of significant harm and the way staff respond to their concerns and any work that may be required).

We recognise that because of the day to day contact with children, school staff are well placed to observe the outward signs of abuse.

Meadowside School will therefore:

- Establish and maintain an environment where children feel secure, are encouraged to talk and are listened to, embracing their emotional wellbeing
- Ensure children know that there are adults in the school whom they can approach if there are worried
- Include opportunities in the Personal, Social, Health and Economic (PSHE) curriculum for children to develop the skills they need to recognise and stay safe from abuse

We will follow the procedures set out by the Gloucestershire Safeguarding Children Board and take account of guidance issued by the Department for Education to:

- Ensure we have a designated safeguarding lead (DSL) who has received the appropriate training and support for this role
- Ensure we have a nominated governor responsible for child protection
- Ensure every member of staff (including temporary/supply staff and volunteers) and the governing body knows the name of the designated senior person responsible for child protection and their role
- Ensure all staff and volunteers understand their responsibilities in being alert to the signs of abuse ( 'it could happen here' ) and responsibility for referring any concerns to the DSL
- Ensure that parents have an understanding of the responsibility placed on the school and staff for child protection by setting out its obligations on the school website
- Notify the relevant social worker if there is an unexplained absence of more than two days of a pupil who has a Child Protection Plan
- Develop effective links with relevant agencies and co-operate as required with their enquiries regarding child protection matters including attendance at case conferences
- Keep written records of concerns about children, even where there is no need to refer the matter immediately

- Ensure all records are kept securely, separate from the main pupil file and in locked locations
- Develop and then follow procedures where an allegation is made against a member of staff or volunteer
- Ensure safe recruitment practices are always followed

We recognise that children who are abused or witness violence may find it difficult to develop a sense of self worth. They may feel helplessness, humiliation and some sense of blame. Meadowside School may be the only stable, secure and predictable element in the lives of the children at risk. When at school their behaviour may be challenging and defiant or they may be withdrawn. This school will endeavour to support the pupil through:

- The content of the curriculum
- The school ethos which promotes a positive, supportive and secure environment and gives pupils a sense of being valued
- The school behaviour policy. The school will ensure that the pupil knows that some behaviour is unacceptable but they are valued and not to be blamed for any abuse which has occurred
- Liaison with other agencies that support the pupil such as social services, Mental Health Service, Education Welfare Service and Educational Psychology Service
- Ensuring that, where a pupil on the child protection register leaves the school, their information is transferred to the new school immediately and that the child's social worker is informed of such changes

### **Definitions of Safeguarding and Child Protection**

- Safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children is defined for the purposes of this guidance as:
  - protecting children from maltreatment;
  - preventing impairment of children's health or development;
  - ensuring that children grow up in circumstances consistent with the provision of safe and effective care; and
  - taking action to enable all children to have the best outcomes
 (KCSIE 2019)
- **Child protection** refers to the **procedural** activity that is undertaken to protect specific children who are suffering, or are likely to suffer, significant harm (Working Together 2018).

### **Procedures for dealing with suspected abuse.**

Meadowside Primary School takes seriously its responsibility to protect and safeguard the welfare of the children and young people in its care.

"The welfare of the child is paramount" Children's Act 1989.

"Consider, at all times, what is in the **best interests** of the child" Keeping Children Safe in Education (KCSiE), 2019

The Rights of the Child (United Nations Convention 1989), including children's right to food, clean water, healthcare, education, housing; and Protection from abuse and neglect and support in vulnerable circumstances

### **Introduction**

- **All adults have a responsibility** to protect each child from abuse; this means if you have any concerns about a child you should talk to the Designated Safeguarding Leads (DSL)

- Every member of staff both teaching and non-teaching has a responsibility to be alert to the possibility that a pupil may have been or may be at risk of being abused
- Any allegation shall be treated with the utmost care to respect the child's needs for confidentiality so that only people who need to know are a party to the details of any abuse to that child
- Every member of staff will undertake regular Safeguarding training.

**A general definition of abuse of a child is as follows:**

- Making a child feel unwanted, ugly, worthless, guilty or unloved (Emotional abuse)
- Being physically violent to a child (Physical abuse)
- Exploiting a child sexually (Sexual abuse)
- Failing to provide the things needed for a child to grow (neglect)

**See KCSIE Part One (2019) pages 7 -9 for more details.**

**Domestic Abuse**

This school receives information from the police to alert the Designated Safeguarding Lead in the school when there has been an incident of domestic abuse in a household where a pupil lives. We are not informed of the detail of the incident, only that one has occurred. This allows us to monitor and support the pupil. If we have additional concerns we will discuss the need for further safeguarding actions with Social Care. This information would only be shared with other staff on a restricted need to know basis i.e. those who are immediately responsible for the pupil's welfare such as the class teacher. Where a Multi agency risk assessment conference (MARAC) occurs the school may be asked for information and appropriate school related information may be shared with the school after the meeting.

**Procedures for referral**

- Establish the facts if possible, listen carefully and ask open questions to clarify (e.g. who, what, when, where, how). We must take care not to ask questions which are not relevant to our role and responsibility for the child.
- Reassure the child that it is not his/her fault and they were right to tell you
- Tell the child that you need to talk and get advice from someone else
- Maintain appropriate confidentiality
- Do not delay talking to the DSL
- Make notes to help you remember what is being said. If this is not possible at the time it is vital that it is done as soon as possible after, make a note of what was said or seen, ensure that you put the date, time and location on your notes and then sign the bottom
- All records relating to Child Protection concerns will be kept in a secure place and will remain confidential. They do not form part of the pupil's educational records and are not required to be disclosed to parents/carers except by agreement.

**DO NOT**

- Jump to conclusions
- Look horrified
- Say something speculative
- Accuse anyone
- Ask any leading questions
- Make promises e.g. not to tell anyone else

**Always report any allegations or suspicions immediately to the DSL**

### **The Designated Safeguarding Lead**

The DSLs are **Miss Samantha Thomas and Mr Dan Port**. Any member of staff or visitor to the school who receives a disclosure of abuse or suspects that abuse may have occurred **must** report it immediately to either of these people. In the absence of either of these people, it is the responsibility of every member of staff to follow the correct procedures. If the allegations involve either named person then the matter should be brought to the immediate attention of the Chair of Governors or the designated governor for Safeguarding, Ian Webb. Mrs Sarah Rowntree and Miss Catherine Mellersh are additional Safeguarding Leads.

### **Support for the pupil and family**

Providing early help is more effective in promoting the welfare of children than reacting later. It means providing support as soon as a problem emerges.

Early help support must be kept under constant review and consideration given to a referral to Children's Social Care if the child's situation does not appear to be improving (KCSIE 2019 Part one, pages 6 - 7).

In order to do this, the school will work with other local agencies to identify children and families who would benefit from early help. Please see Meadowside's Early Help offer for further details.

Our priority is to safeguard the young people in our care. We will give all the support that we can to a pupil who is being abused. The DSL will consider how best to support and monitor the pupil concerned through any process of investigation, liaising closely if appropriate with parents, guardians, Gloucestershire Safeguarding Children Board or other agencies involved to identify the support strategies that will be appropriate.

The school shares a purpose with parents to educate, keep children safe from harm and have their children's welfare promoted

We are committed to working with parents positively, openly and honestly. We ensure that all parents are treated with respect, dignity and courtesy. We respect parents' rights to privacy and confidentiality and will not share sensitive information until we have permission or it is necessary to do so to protect a child.

Meadowside will share with parents any concerns we may have about their child unless to do so may place a child at risk of harm.

We encourage parents to disclose any concerns they may have with Meadowside. We make parents aware of our Safeguarding and Child Protection Policies and parents are aware that these are on the school website.

### **Training**

The designated person and her deputy will be encouraged to attend training events organised by the Safeguarding Board or LA and will also be expected to update their training every 2 years.

All staff, both teaching and support, shall have access to appropriate training on signs and symptoms, school procedure and responding to child protection concerns on a regular basis. Staff should be made aware that children with SEND are statistically more likely to be victims of abuse. Staff should be especially vigilant of these children. Child protection training must be included in induction training for all staff and for volunteers working in school.

Training and updates should reflect National and Local agendas and recommendations from serious case reviews.

Recent examples include:

- Familiarity of signs and alerts regarding FGM (Female Genital Mutilation)
- Local and national concerns with regard to Child Sexual Exploitation and training/resources available eg Teenage Relationship Abuse
- Support available through agencies such as Targeted Support Teams, GDAS (Gloucester Domestic Abuse Support)

### **The role of the governing body**

Section 175 of the Education Act 2002 and regulations under section 157 places a duty on the governing body to have arrangements in place to ensure safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children. The Governors recognise that children have a fundamental right to be protected from harm or exploitation and that pupils cannot learn effectively unless they feel secure. The Governors will, therefore, provide a school environment which promotes self-confidence, a feeling of worth and the knowledge that pupil's concerns will be listened to and acted upon. **The responsibilities of the Governing body in relation to safeguarding are detailed in KCSIE Part 2 and Ofsted's 'Inspecting safeguarding in early years, education and skills settings' Annex 1.**

The Governors will receive a termly report ( via Heads Report and Safeguarding Update agenda items) on policy and procedures, training undertaken by the designated person, other staff and governors, the number of child protection incidents/cases (without detail or name).

The Chair of Governors or designated governor for safeguarding in liaison with the designated person will ensure that the school has a Child Protection Policy and procedures in place and that these are known to all members of staff. They will also ensure that the GSCB Safeguarding Audit is completed annually.

### **Useful names and numbers**

#### **Designated Safeguarding Leads**

Miss Samantha Thomas

Mr Dan Port

#### **Additional Safeguarding Leads**

Mrs Sarah Rowntree

Miss Catherine Mellersh

#### **Designated Safeguarding Governor**

Sally Perry

Gloucestershire children and young person's referral team 'The Front Door'- 01452 426565

Gloucestershire children's services emergency/out of hours – 01452 614194

Gloucestershire local Safeguarding board Business Manager – Judith Williams – 01452 583629

Local Authority Designated Officer – Jane Bee – 01452 426994

Police – Child abuse investigation team – 01242 261112