

SAFEGUARDING POLICY

PRINCIPLES

Section 175 of the Education Act 2002 gives maintained schools a statutory duty to promote and safeguard the welfare of children, and have due regard to guidance issued by the Secretary of State.

At Raysfield Schools Federation we recognise our legal and moral duty to promote the well-being of children, and protect them from harm, and respond to child abuse. We acknowledge our responsibilities to both protect children from maltreatment and prevent impairment. We will promote their welfare by creating opportunities for them to achieve their full potential in the areas identified within the Every Child Matters Agenda, thus giving them optimum life chances in adulthood:

- Must be and stay safe
- Must be healthy
- Must be able to enjoy and achieve
- Must be able to achieve economic well-being
- Must make a positive contribution

We believe that every child regardless of age has at all times and in all situations, a right to feel safe and protected from any situation or practice that results in a child being physically or psychologically damaged. This includes any form of bullying (for example, racism).

We recognise that many of the risks to children in the 'real world' equally apply to 'virtual world' that children and young people may encounter when they use IT in its various forms. We take seriously our responsibility to educate our children to help them to become safe and responsible users of new technologies, and allow them to be discriminating users of both the content they discover and the contacts they make online. Our aim is to teach them the appropriate behaviours and critical thinking skills to remain both safe and legal online, wherever and whenever they use technology.

We agree that we have a primary responsibility for the care, welfare and safety of the pupils in our charge, and we will carry out this duty through our teaching and learning, extra curricular activities, pastoral care and extended school activities. In order to achieve this, all members of staff (including volunteers and governors) in this school, in whatever capacity, will at all times act proactively in child welfare matters especially where there is a possibility that a child may be at risk of significant harm.

At Raysfield Schools Federation we seek to adopt an open and accepting attitude towards children as part of our responsibility for pastoral care. We hope that parents and children will feel free to talk about any concerns and will see school as a safe place if there are any difficulties at home. Children's worries and fears will be taken seriously if they seek help from a member of staff. However, staff cannot promise secrecy if concerns are such that referral must be made to the appropriate agencies in order to safeguard the child's welfare.

Our school believes in the importance of early identification of issues for children and young people. We fully endorse the principles of multi-agency working and will engage in the SAF (Single Assessment Framework) process for any child in our school for whom we feel this is appropriate.

In our school, if we have suspicions that a child's physical, sexual or emotional well-being is being, or is likely to be, harmed, or that they are being neglected, we will take appropriate action in accordance with the procedures of South Gloucestershire Safeguarding Children Board which are to be found at <http://sites.southglos.gov.uk/safeguarding/children/>.

As a consequence, we

- assert that teachers and other members of staff (including volunteers) in the school are an integral part of the child safeguarding process;

- accept totally that safeguarding children is an appropriate function for all members of staff in the school, and wholly compatible with their primary pedagogic responsibilities.
 - recognise that safeguarding children in this school is a responsibility for all staff, including volunteers, and the Governing Body;
 - will ensure through training and supervision that all staff and volunteers in the school are alert to the possibility that a child is at risk of suffering harm, and know how to report concerns or suspicions;
 - will designate a senior member of staff with knowledge and skills in recognising and acting on child protection concerns. He or she will act as a source of expertise and advice, and is responsible for co-ordinating action within the school and liaising with other agencies;
- ensure (through the designated member of staff) that staff with designated responsibility for child protection will receive appropriate training to the minimum standard set out by South Gloucestershire Safeguarding Children Board (SGSCB)
- will share our concerns with others who need to know, and assist in any referral process;
 - will ensure that all members of staff and volunteers who have suspicion that a child may be suffering, or may be at risk of suffering significant harm, refer such concerns to the Designated member of staff, who will refer on to Children's Social Care in accordance with the procedures issued by South Gloucestershire Safeguarding Children Board.
 - safeguard the welfare of children whilst in the school, through positive measures to address bullying, especially where this is aggravated by sexual or racial factors, disability or special educational needs, or technology
 - will ensure that all staff are aware of the child protection procedures established by South Gloucestershire Safeguarding Children Board and, where appropriate, the Local Authority, and act on any guidance or advice given by them;
 - will ensure through our recruitment and selection of volunteers and paid employees that all people who work in our school are suitable to work with children,
 - will act swiftly and make appropriate referrals where an allegation is made that a member of staff has committed an offence against a child, harmed a child, or acted in a way that calls into question their suitability for working with children.

DESIGNATED MEMBER OF STAFF

1. The designated senior member of staff for child protection in this school is:

Miss Sarah Sheppard and Miss Sarah Thomas

2. In their absence, these matters will be dealt with by:

Mrs Claire Hill

3. In their absence, these matters will be dealt with by:

Mrs Beverly Woodward

1. The designated person is key to ensuring that proper procedures and policies are in place and are followed with regard to child safeguarding issues. They will also act as a dedicated resource available for other staff, volunteers and governors to draw upon.
2. The school recognises that
 - The designated person must have the status and authority within the school leadership structure to carry out the duties of the post – they must therefore be a senior member of staff in the school.
 - All members of staff (including volunteers) must be made aware of who this person is and what their role is.
 - The designated person will act as a source of advice and coordinate action within the school over child protection cases
 - The designated person will need to liaise with other agencies and build good working relationships with colleagues from these agencies.
 - They should possess skills in recognising and dealing with child welfare concerns.
 - Appropriate training and support should be given.
 - The designated person is the first person to whom members of staff report concerns.
 - The designated person is responsible for referring cases of suspected abuse or allegations to the relevant investigating agencies according to the procedures established by SGSCB.
 - The designated person is not responsible for dealing with allegations made against members of staff.

To be effective they will:

- Act as a source of advice, support and expertise within the school and be responsible for coordinating action regarding referrals by liaising with Children's Social Care and other relevant agencies over suspicions that a child may be suffering harm.
- Cascade safeguarding advice and guidance issued by South Gloucestershire Safeguarding Children Board.
- Where they have concerns that a referral has not been dealt with in accordance with the child protection procedures, refer to the Business Leader of SGSCB to investigate further.
- Ensure each member of staff and volunteers at the school, and regular visitors (such as Education Welfare Officers, trainee teachers and supply teachers) are aware of and can access readily, this policy.
Liaise with the head teacher (if not head teacher) to inform him/her of any issues and ongoing investigations and ensure there is always cover for the role.
- Ensure that this policy is updated and reviewed annually and work with the designated governors for child protection regarding this.
- Be able to keep detailed accurate secure written records of referrals/concerns, and ensure that these are held in a secure place.
- Ensure parents are aware of the child protection policy in order to alert them to the fact that the school may need to make referrals. Raising parents' awareness may avoid later conflict if the school does have to take appropriate action to safeguard a child.
- Where children leave the school roll, ensure any child protection file is transferred to the new school as soon as possible, separately from the main file, and addressed to the designated person for child protection.
- Where a child leaves and the new school is not known, ensure that the local authority is alerted so that the child's name can be included on the database for missing pupils.

The designated person also has an important role in ensuring all staff and volunteers receive appropriate training. They should:

- Attend training in how to identify abuse and know when it is appropriate to refer a case
- Have a working knowledge of how South Gloucestershire Safeguarding Children Board operates and the conduct of a child protection case conference and be able to attend and contribute to these when required.
- Attend any relevant or refresher training courses and then ensure that any new or key messages are passed to other staff, volunteers and governors.
- Make themselves (and any deputies) known to all staff, volunteers and governors (including new starters and supply teachers) and ensure those members of staff have had training in child protection. This should be relevant to their needs to enable them to identify and report any concerns to the designated teacher immediately.

DESIGNATED GOVERNOR

The Designated Governor for Child Protection at this school are:

Mrs Claire Hayward

Child protection is important. Where appropriate, the Governors will ensure that sufficient resources are made available to enable the necessary tasks to be carried out properly under inter-agency procedures.

The Governors will ensure that the designated member of staff for child protection is given sufficient time to carry out his or her duties, including accessing training.

The Governors will review safeguarding practices in the school on a regular basis, and no less than annually, to ensure that:

- The school is carrying out its duties to safeguard the welfare of children at the school;
- Members of staff and volunteers are aware of current practices in this matter, and that staff receive training where appropriate;
- They attend training Child Protection/Safeguarding training for Governors
- Child protection is integrated with induction procedures for all new members of staff and volunteers
- The school follows the procedures agreed by South Gloucestershire Safeguarding Children Board, and any supplementary guidance issued by the Local Authority
- Only persons suitable to work with children shall be employed in the school, or work here in a voluntary capacity
- Where safeguarding concerns about a member of staff are substantiated, take appropriate disciplinary action

RECRUITMENT

In order to ensure that children are protected whilst at this school, we will ensure that our staff and volunteers are carefully selected, screened, trained and supervised.

We accept that it is our responsibility to follow the guidance set out in “Keeping Children Safe in Education”, in particular:

- Before appointing someone, follow up each reference with a telephone call or personal contact during which we will discuss the applicant’s suitability to work with vulnerable children.
- Check that all adults with substantial access to children at this school have an enhanced Disclosure and Barring Service check before starting work.

We will ensure that at least one member of any interview panel has completed Safer Recruitment Training.

In addition, we will ensure that the following checks are satisfactorily completed before a person takes up a position in the school:

- Identity checks to establish that applicants are who they claim to be
- Academic qualifications, to ensure that qualifications are genuine
- Professional and character references prior to offering employment
- Satisfy conditions as to health and physical capacity
- Previous employment history will be examined and any gaps accounted for.

VOLUNTEERS

We understand that some people otherwise unsuitable for working with children may use volunteering to gain access to children; for this reason, any volunteers in the school, in whatever capacity, will be given the same consideration as paid staff.

Regular volunteers or parent helpers and Governors must also have Disclosure and Barring Service clearance. For a brief activity, such as a school visit, which does not involve the supervision or close contact of children a parent may support without a DBS. For extended contact with children, when children may be left alone with an adult, or when an adult visitor may be in and around the school building a full Disclosure and Barring Service clearance will be conducted. The office performs this. A Single Central Record is kept in the office. Visitors who do not yet have clearance will under no circumstances be left alone with a child or group of children.

All volunteers will be required to sign our volunteer code of conduct.

INDUCTION & TRAINING

All new members of staff will receive induction training, which will give an overview of the organisation and ensure they know its purpose, values, services and structure, as well as identifying and reporting abuse, and confidentiality issues.

All new staff at the school (including volunteers) will receive basic child protection information and a copy of this policy within one week of starting their work at the school.

All staff will be expected to attend training on safeguarding children that will enable them to fulfil their responsibilities in respect of child protection effectively. The school will provide this training through the designated person.

All staff will receive a copy of the DfE ‘Keeping Children Safe in Education’ leaflet and they will be expected to read and understand at least part one, annex A and part 5.

Staff will attend refresher training every three years, and the designated person every two years.

DEALING WITH CONCERNS

Members of staff and volunteers are not required by this school to investigate suspicions; if somebody believes that a child may be suffering, or may be at risk of suffering significant harm, they must always refer such concerns to the designated person, who will refer the matter to the relevant Children’s Services.

To this end, volunteers and staff will follow the procedures below;

- Upon the receipt of any information from a child, or if any person has suspicions that a child may be at risk of harm, or
- If anyone observes injuries that appear to be non-accidental, or
- where a child or young person makes a direct allegation or implies that they have been abused,
- makes an allegation against a member of staff

They must record what they have seen, heard or know accurately at the time the event occurs, and share their concerns with the designated person (or head teacher if an allegation about a member of staff) and agree action to take.

We will ensure that all members of staff and employees are familiar with the procedures for keeping a confidential written record of any incidents and with the requirements of South Gloucestershire Safeguarding Children Board.

Where any member of staff fails to report their concerns, this may be dealt with as a disciplinary matter.

SAFEGUARDING IN SCHOOL

As well as ensuring that we address child protection concerns, we will also ensure that children who attend the school are kept safe from harm whilst they are in our charge.

To this end, this policy must be seen in light of the school's policies on:

- Personal, Social and Health Education and Sex and Relationships Education; child protection issues will be addressed through the curriculum as appropriate.
- Acceptable Internet Use
- First Aid
- Anti-Bullying; the school will also ensure that bullying is identified and dealt with so that any harm caused by other pupils can be minimised. We will pay particular attention to sexualized behaviour, or bullying that is homophobic in nature, or where there appear to be links to domestic abuse in the family home.
- Safer recruitment and code of conduct for staff.
- Racist incidents
- Confidentiality
- Behaviour and the school rules
- Health & Safety
- Equality Policy
- Physical Restraint
- Complaints Policy
- Social Media

HEALTH AND SAFETY

The school has a Health and Safety policy, practise against which is monitored each alternate term by the Governors Environment Committee. A copy of this policy is available with 24 hours notice.

The LA produces a monitoring checklist, which has to be completed on a yearly basis. The Headteacher with responsibility for Health and Safety, the School Business Leader and the governor with responsibility for Health and Safety oversee this comprehensive list. Any concerns from staff are reported to any of the above and the School Business Manager carries out an initial examination, assessing what remedial action needs to take place.

Every alternative term there is a fire drill that practices efficient evacuation from the buildings. The school conducts an annual Fire Risk Assessment.

There is also a Critical Incidents Plan that details what staff and parents should do in the case of emergencies.

FIRST AID

In school there are always trained members of staff who volunteer to oversee first aid. There are a number of first aid kits situated around school. When a child is poorly, or has suffered an accident in school or on the playground there is a protocol for staff to follow:

- A trained first aider is consulted
- The incident is logged in the accident book

- For head injuries a text is sent home to inform the parents / parents are phoned and the child wears a label to indicate a bump has occurred.
- If there is any doubt at all a parent is contacted
- If a child is injured beyond our ability to care an ambulance is called then a parent is contacted.

The LA policy is that members of staff will not give medicines at all except for pupils with severe medical conditions. For these pupils all staff receive annual training on symptoms to be aware of and the correct administration of medication, for example, the epipen. In the case of a pupil needing medication during the day parents are welcome to come into school to administer correct dosages. For the majority of medicines a dose before and after school is perfectly adequate. Naturally the parents should consult doctors before giving any form of medication.

For matters of an intimate nature staff are informed to deal with a child with utmost sensitivity and always to seek guidance from the Executive Leadership Group. In almost all situations the parents will be asked to come into school immediately so that they are part of the decision making process for such matters. In rare circumstances the school nurse will be contacted as a matter of utmost urgency before the parent.

SITE SECURITY

Rasyfield Schools Federation provides a secure site, which is controlled by precise management directives, but the site is only as secure as the people who use it. Therefore all people on the site have to adhere to the rules, which govern it. Laxity can cause potential problems to safeguarding. Therefore:

- Gates should be locked except at the start and end of each day.
- Doors should be closed to prevent intrusion but to facilitate smooth exits.
- Visitors, volunteers and students must only enter through the main entrance and after signing in at the reception window are given a badge to wear.
Children from reception to Year 3 will only be allowed home with adults with parental responsibility or confirmed permission.
- Children from Year 4 to Year 6 will be allowed to leave class by themselves at the end of school. Guardians are expected to arrange the details for their child's journey home. Any Guardian who wishes to collect their child from the teacher, will need to notify the school in writing. • Empty classrooms should have closed windows.
- Children should never be allowed to leave school alone during school hours, and if collected by an adult, signed out.
- Visitors mobile phones will be securely stored in the reception area.

Should a child leave the school premises without permission then staff have been informed never to chase after a child, but rather to report immediately to the office. Then parents and police will be informed of the circumstances.

ATTENDANCE Excellent attendance is expected of all children, but when children are unwell parents are expected to confirm absence by telephone immediately. If there is no notification school has a policy of phoning home to ascertain each child's whereabouts.

The school works closely with the Local Authority's Welfare officer whenever a child's attendance and punctuality causes concern. Attendance rates are reported each term to the LA, annually to the government and to all parents. Positive measures are in place to encourage children to attend regularly and punctually and the school is aware of its right to take legal action against parents who do not ensure good attendance and punctuality.

TOLERANCE

Along with the Equal Opportunities policy, there is a Single Equality Plan, which includes the Racial Discrimination policy, Inclusion policy and Gender policy. At Raysfield pupils will be prepared for an ethnically and culturally diverse society. The school will work hard to promote an inclusive environment where racial and gender inequality are prevented and challenged.

Racism, disability and gender are tackled in both the RE and in the PSHE curricula. The children take part in discussions designed to raise awareness and address prejudices.

INTERNET SAFETY

Children should be encouraged to use the internet as much as is possible, but at all times in a safe way. Pupils must never be left unattended whilst online and teachers should ensure that this does not happen. If teachers know of misuse, either by a teacher or child the issue should be reported to the Headteacher without delay. There is an Internet Safety Policy supporting the use of the internet in school.

As DSL the Headteacher has overall responsibility for internet safety.

PHOTOGRAPHING CHILDREN

We understand that parents like to take photos of or video record their children in the school play, or at sports day, or school presentations. This is a normal part of family life, and we will not discourage parents from celebrating their child's successes.

However, if there are Health and Safety issues associated with this - i.e. the use of a flash when taking photos could distract or dazzle the child, and cause them to have an accident, we will encourage parents to use film or settings on their camera that do not require flash.

We will not allow others to photograph or film pupils during a school activity without the parent's permission.

We will not allow images of pupils to be used on school websites, publicity, or press releases, without express permission from the parent, and if we do obtain such permission, we will not identify individual children by name. The school cannot however be held accountable for photographs or video footage taken by parents or members of the public at school functions.

For further information read our Use of Photographs and Video policy.

CONFIDENTIALITY

The school, and all members of staff at the school, will ensure that all data about pupils is handled in accordance with the requirements of the law (GDPR), and any national and local guidance.

Any member of staff who has access to sensitive information about a child or the child's family must take all reasonable steps to ensure that such information is only disclosed to those people who need to know.

Regardless of the duty of confidentiality, if any member of staff has reason to believe that a child may be suffering harm, or be at risk of harm, their duty is to forward this information without delay to the designated member of staff for child protection.

CONDUCT OF STAFF

The school has a duty to ensure that professional behaviour applies to relationships between staff and children, and that all members of staff are clear about what constitutes appropriate behaviour and professional boundaries.

At all times, members of staff are required to work in a professional way with children. All staff should be aware of the dangers inherent in:

- working alone with a child
- physical interventions
- cultural and gender stereotyping
- dealing with sensitive information
- giving to and receiving gifts from children and parents
- contacting children through private telephones (including texting), e-mail, or social networking websites.
- disclosing personal details inappropriately
- meeting pupils outside school hours or school duties

If any member of staff has reasonable suspicion that a child is suffering harm, and fails to act in accordance with this policy and South Gloucestershire Safeguarding Board procedures, we will view this as misconduct, and take appropriate action

PHYSICAL CONTACT & RESTRAINT

Members of staff may have to make physical interventions with children. Members of staff should only do this where:

- It is necessary to protect the child, or another person, from immediate danger, or
- Where the member of staff has received suitable training such as Team Teach
- If this intervention is needed, staff must record intervention in bound and numbered book as well as informing the DSL.

ALLEGATIONS AGAINST MEMBERS OF STAFF

If anyone makes an allegation that any member of staff (including any volunteer or Governor) may have:

- Committed an offence against a child
- Placed a child at risk of significant harm

- Behaved in a way that calls into question their suitability to work with children

the allegation will be dealt with in accordance with national guidance and agreements, as implemented locally by SGSCB.

The headteacher will handle such allegations, unless the allegation is against the headteacher, when the chair of governors will handle the school's response.

The headteacher (or chair of governors) will gather information about the allegation, and report these without delay to the Local Authority.

BEFORE AND AFTER SCHOOL ACTIVITIES

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

CONTRACTED SERVICES

Where the Governing Bodies contracts its services to outside providers, we will ensure that these providers have appropriate safeguarding and child protection policies and procedures, and that there are arrangements in place to link with the school on such matters. Such considerations will be made explicit in any contract or service level agreement with the provider.

WHISTLEBLOWING

If members of staff have any concerns about people working, paid or unpaid, they have a professional duty to inform the management accordingly. This can be done in writing or verbally but staff should be prepared to discuss issues in the confidence that any such matter will be dealt with sensitively and with the necessary degree of confidentiality. The school follows the Local Authority's draft policy on Whistleblowing. A copy of this can be made available at 24 hours notice and is displayed in the staffroom.

Approved by Safeguarding Team	
Approved by FGB	10 th July 2019
Review Date	July 2020