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## SAFEGUARDING AT ST LEONARD'S

At St. Leonard's Primary Academy, we regard the safeguarding of children as our main priority. We believe that we all have the right to be happy, to be safe and to learn. We all have the responsibility to make this happen.

We will ensure that:

- The welfare of the child remains paramount.
- All children whatever their age, culture, disability, gender, language, racial origin, religious beliefs and/ or sexual identity have the right to be protected from harm.
- All suspicions and allegations of abuse will be taken seriously and responded to swiftly and appropriately.
- All staff and volunteers working at our school have a responsibility to report concerns to the Designated Leads for Safeguarding: Mrs. Branscombe (SMT) or Mr. Berry (SENCo)
- The Link Governor for Safeguarding is Mrs Lindley

### **Areas of Safeguarding**

**Our safeguarding policies cover all areas of school life and include:**

- Staff & Visitors- ensuring they are vetted, informed & trained.
- Children's Behaviour- promoting safer & happier behaviours & lifestyles.
- Parents & Carers- promoting links & supporting families.
- Premises -keeping them safe, pleasant & fit for purpose.
- Curriculum -providing positive, life affirming learning experiences.
- Outside School- ensuring safer activities and environments outside school.

We have a duty to ensure that we safeguard children across wide and varied aspects of children and family's needs. These are set out in the government publication; Keeping Children Safe in Education, and are detailed as:

### **Abuse**

- physical Abuse
- emotional abuse
- sexual abuse
- neglect

**Plus the Specific Safeguarding Issues of:**

- child missing from education
  - child missing from home or care
  - child sexual exploitation (CSE)

- bullying including cyberbullying
- domestic violence
- drugs
- fabricated or induced illness
- faith abuse
- female genital mutilation (FGM)
- forced marriage
- gangs and youth violence
- gender-based violence/violence against women and girls (VAWG)
- mental health
- private fostering
- preventing radicalisation - and see page 15
- sexting
- teenage relationship abuse
- trafficking

### **Members of Staff Responsible**

We are **all** responsible for ensuring that each child remains safe, however the Designated Leads for Safeguarding are Mrs. Branscombe (SMT) and Mr. Berry (SENCo)

### **Safer Recruitment**

We follow strict procedures to ensure that everyone who works with our children is vetted, keeping our children as safe as possible. At least one senior member of staff is qualified in Safer Recruitment Procedures and oversees all recruitment processes.

### **Staff Training**

- Staff are trained in child protection issues and they are aware of the procedures to follow. Staff training is delivered via a variety of means: face to face in and out of school training (including the Local Safeguarding Children's Board specialist courses), online refreshers and information raising, document sharing and on-going professional dialogues during staff meetings.
- Staff are encouraged to be vigilant in order to maintain the safety of our children and their concerns are discussed and handled appropriately.

### **Child Protection with Safeguarding Policy**

All staff have an up-to-date understanding of safeguarding children issues and are able to implement the safeguarding children policy and procedure appropriately. Policies are in line with current guidance and procedures. A copy of the policy is included on the website.

Staff are able to respond appropriately to any:

- significant changes in children's behaviour;
- deterioration in their general well-being;
- unexplained bruising, marks or signs of possible abuse;
- signs of neglect;
- comments children make which give cause for concern.

All staff are aware of the need to maintain privacy and confidentiality. Parents are informed via the website and through newsletters in relation to our duty and procedures to protect their children.

### **Information Sharing**

We have an obligation to obtain necessary information from parents in advance of a child being admitted to school, including:

- emergency contact numbers;
- the child's special dietary requirements, preferences or food allergies the child may have;
- the child's special health requirements;

- information about who has legal contact with the child; and who has parental responsibility for the child.

Written parental permission is requested, at the time of the child's admission to the provision, to the seeking of any necessary emergency medical advice or treatment in the future.

### **PARENTS & CARERS MUST TELL US OF ANY CHANGES TO THESE DETAILS.**

We take confidentiality very seriously. Any information which we hold is treated as confidential and shared on a 'need-to-know' basis.

### **Links with External Agencies**

Because our first concern must be the well-being of your child, there may be occasions when we must consult other agencies before we contact you. The procedures we must follow have been laid down in accordance with the local authority child protection procedures, which are included as part of our policy below.

We are fortunate to be supported by a range of external agencies which can be called upon to support the work we do in school. These include School Nurse, Health Practitioners, Educational Psychology, Child & Adolescent Mental Health Services, Behaviour Support, Social Services and Specialists in supporting Special Educational Needs.

### **Reporting Concerns or Complaints**

Further to the above procedures, we have in place a concerns and complaints policy. A copy is detailed on our Policies page. This enables children, staff and carers to report anything they feel is of concern.

Concerns should be raised in the following order.

1. To the Class Teacher. Then, if there is no resolution;
2. To the Head Teacher. Then, if there is no resolution;
3. To the Chairman of Governors. Then, if there is no resolution;
4. To the Local Authority.

Contact details are available from the school office.

If you have a safeguarding concern, then this should be brought to the attention of Mrs. Branscombe or Mr. Berry in the first instance.

### **Review of Policy and Practice**

In order to ensure that best practice is maintained, our policies are reviewed at least regularly to incorporate the latest statutory guidance emerge.

If you would like more information on safeguarding, please contact Mrs. Branscombe, who will be happy to discuss matters further with you.

Follow the link below to see our key policies, including safeguarding.

- [Key Policies](#)

### **E-Safety**

E-Safety is a key aspect of our duty to keep children safe - both inside and outside of school. Take a look at our e-safety policy within our 'Policies' section for further detail, but for parents and carers there is a wealth of online information which can be accessed in order to help to keep children safe online.

Should school have concerns around safeguarding and e-safety, staff have dedicated safeguarding referral forms which are shared with the Designated Safeguarding Leads - who may contact parents and carers.

Below are some useful links which can provide useful and impartial information.

[NSPCC Online Safety Site](#)

[Think You Know Site](#)