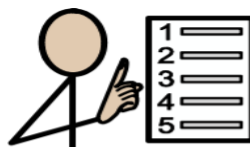




Family Friendly



Safeguarding



Policy

At Old Park School safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children is everyone's responsibility.

It is defined as:

- protecting children from maltreatment.
- preventing impairment of children's mental and physical health or development.
- ensuring that children grow up in circumstances consistent with the provision of safe and effective care.
- taking action to enable all children to have the best outcomes

Role of School

All staff will be aware of:

- Our systems which support safeguarding, the Early Help process and their role in it (led by family support team, with class team and keyworker input)
- The process for making referrals to local authority children's social care and for statutory assessments that may follow a referral.
- What to do if they identify a safeguarding issue and how to maintain an appropriate level of confidentiality while liaising with relevant professionals.
- The signs of different types of abuse and neglect, as well as specific safeguarding issues, such as child sexual exploitation (CSE), peer-on-peer/child-on-child abuse, FGM, radicalisation, child criminal exploitation (CCE), county lines, sexting and up skirting.
- Mental Health difficulties might be a sign of abuse.

All staff members will undertake safeguarding and child protection training, including online safety training, at induction, together with managing allegations and whistle-blowing procedures, to ensure they understand the school's safeguarding systems and their responsibilities, and can identify signs of possible abuse or neglect. This training will be regularly updated and will be in line with local and statutory guidelines.

Working in Partnership

Old Park School is committed to working with children with special educational needs (SEN) and disabilities who often face additional safeguarding challenges. This can include:

- 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 outwards showing any signs
- Communication barriers and difficulties in overcoming these barriers

All staff work as key workers for individual children. They develop positive working relationships with parents through frequent communication.

We recognise that providing 'early help' is more effective in promoting the welfare of children than reacting when problems become more serious. This help may be needed at any point in a child's life, from early to teenage years.

If early help is appropriate, the DSL will generally lead on liaising with other agencies and setting up an inter-agency assessment as appropriate.

Key Vocabulary and Contacts

| | |
|--------|---------------------------------------|
| EHA | Early Help Assessment |
| (I)FSW | (Intensive) Family Support Worker |
| MARF | Multi Agency Referral Form |
| CYPA | Children and Young Persons Assessment |
| CIN | Child In Need (Section 17) |
| CP | Child Protection (Section 47) |
| DSL | Designated Safeguarding Lead |
| CIC | Children In Care |

When Concerns Arise

Where it is safe to do so, the DSL (or nominated member of staff) will always call to speak to families if we have any safeguarding concerns. Where further advice and guidance is needed, the DSL may call to speak to a social worker in the MASH team. A MARF maybe submitted following advice given.



More Information

At Old Park School the Designated Safeguarding Lead is Mrs Leanne Powis-Hedley. The Designated Governor for Safeguarding is Mr Alex Burns. The Dudley Children's Front Door team can be contacted on 0300 5550050.