

NORTH ROAD COMMUNITY PRIMARY SCHOOL

SAFEGUARDING CHILDREN POLICY

North Road Community Primary School fully recognises its responsibilities for child protection (See Child Protection Policy).

Our policy applies to all staff, governors and volunteers working in the school,

- Ensuring we practice safe recruitment in checking the suitability of staff and volunteers to work with children, including DBS checks which are reviewed in line with current legislation.
- Raising awareness of child protection issues and equipping children with the skills needed to keep them safe.
- Developing and then implementing procedures for identifying and reporting cases, or suspected cases, of abuse.
- Supporting pupils who have been abused in accordance with his/her agreed child protection plan.
- Establishing a safe environment in which children can learn and develop. We recognise that because of day to day contact with children, school staff are well placed to observe signs of abuse. The school will therefore:

Establish and maintain an environment where children feel secure, are encouraged to talk, and are listened to.

Ensure children know that there are adults in the school whom they can approach if they are worried.

Include opportunities in the PSHE and Computing curriculum for children to develop the skills they need to recognise risks and stay safe from abuse including online.

We follow the procedures set out by the South Gloucestershire local safeguarding children board and take account of National guidance.

Appoint a designated safeguarding lead for child protection who will receive appropriate training and support for this role. This is currently Sarah Stillie. The deputy designated safeguarding lead is Cathy Johnson.

Appoint a nominated governor responsible for safeguarding. This is currently Mike Munday.

Ensure every member of staff, volunteer and governor knows the name of the designated teacher responsible for child protection and their role.

Ensure all staff and volunteers understand their responsibilities in being alert to the signs of abuse and responsibility for referring any concerns to the designated teacher responsible for child protection.

Ensure that parents/ carers have an understanding of the responsibility placed on the school and staff for child protection by setting out its obligations in the school prospectus.

Notify Children Missing in Education if there is an unexplained absence of more than two days of a pupil who is on the child protection register.

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 and actions taken, even where there is no need to refer the matter immediately.

Ensure all records are kept securely.

Develop and then follow procedures where an allegation is made against a member of staff or volunteer and report to the Local Authority Designated Officer (LADO).

Ensure safe recruitment practices are followed.

We recognise that children who are abused or witness violence may not develop a sense of self-worth. They may feel helplessness, humiliation and some sense of blame. The school may be the only stable, secure and predictable element in their lives. When at school their behaviour may be challenging and defiant or they may be withdrawn. The 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 which is aimed at supporting vulnerable pupils in the school. 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 to them.

Liaison with other agencies that support the pupil such as social services, Child and Adolescent Mental Health Service, Education Welfare Service and Educational Psychology Service.

Ensuring that, where a pupil on the child protection register leaves, their information is transferred to the new school immediately and that the child's social worker is informed.

School Procedures

These include a 'Significant Events Record' which logs concerns and incidents securely and a reporting and recording process which is robust and known to all staff. In addition there is a safeguarding toolkit to store important information and policies.

A commitment to identify, refer and track any child in need of support.

i) In all cases where abuse is suspected or a sustainable allegation is made, teachers and other members of staff should report the information to the designated safeguarding lead.

ii) The designated safeguarding lead should refer these cases or discuss them with the local authority Access and Response Team (ART).

iii) If the designated safeguarding lead is unsure about whether a case should be formally referred or has a general concern about a child's health or development, he or she can seek advice and support from other agencies including the Education welfare Officer, school nurse or the LA child protection co-ordinator.

iv) Whether or not to make a referral which could activate a child protection investigation is a serious decision and will require careful judgement.

When referring a case of suspected or alleged abuse, the designated safeguarding lead should ask to be informed of the timing of the strategy discussion between the investigating agencies which will decide whether and how to investigate. The designated teacher will then clarify with the investigating agencies when, how and by whom the parents and the child will be told that a referral has been made.

vi) A member of staff, either the designated safeguarding lead or the member of staff who knows the child best, should be prepared to contribute to the strategy discussion.

Annual review of policy and procedures as laid down by Section 175 of the Children's Act June 2004.

Date: November 2016

Approved by: FGB

8th December 2016

Review Date: November 2017