

# Fernhurst Junior School

## Safeguarding and Child Protection Policy

*'The welfare of the child is paramount'*

### Definition

**Child protection** - is the activity of protecting children who are suffering or may be likely to suffer from significant harm as a result of abuse or neglect.

**Safeguarding** - is much wider, preventative and involves promoting the welfare of children by protecting them from harm and recognising the risks to their safety and security.

We fully recognise our responsibilities for child protection. Our policy applies to **ALL** staff, governors and volunteers working in the school. There are five main elements to our policy:

Ensuring we practise safe recruitment in checking the suitability of staff and volunteers to work with children.

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, including identifying children who may benefit from Early Help.

Working with all agencies involved with a family to support pupils who have been, or are at risk of being, abused in accordance with his/her agreed child protection, child in need or Early Help plan.

Establishing a safe environment in which children can learn and develop.

We recognise that because of the day to day contact with children, school staff are well placed to observe the outward 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 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 Portsmouth Safeguarding Children partnerships

<https://www.portsmouthscp.org.uk/>

and take account of guidance issued by the Department for Education. All will have read and understood -

*Working together to Safeguard Children (December 2020)*

*Keeping Children Safe in Education (updated sept 2022) Part 1 annex A*  
to:

Ensure we have a designated senior person for child protection who has received appropriate training and support for this role: **Headteacher - Roberta Kirby**. At Fernhurst, the deputy, and Assistant Headteachers are also DSL trained and should be contacted in the absence of the Headteacher.

Ensure we have a nominated governor responsible for child protection: **Steve Wemyss**

Ensure all staff know the name of the **LADO – Rebecca Paradise**. The headteacher will inform the LADO if any safeguarding concerns are raised about a member of staff, whether in school or outside of school.

Ensure every member of staff (including temporary and supply staff and volunteers) and governing body knows the name of the designated senior person responsible for child protection and their role.

Ensure all staff are trained in line with Government guidance and responding to local issues and trends. (e.g. Prevent, Neglect, Online safety)

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 senior person responsible for child protection.

Ensure that parents 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 social services 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, 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.
- Follow Portsmouth City Council agreed 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. The school may be the only stable, secure and predictable element in the lives of children at risk. When at school their behaviour may be challenging and defiant or they may be withdrawn. The school will endeavor 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.

- Liaison with other agencies that support the pupil such as social services, Child and Adolescent Mental Health Service, Education Monitoring Service and Educational Psychology service.
- Ensuring that, where a pupil subject to child protection plans leaves, their information is transferred to the new school immediately and that the child's social worker is informed. This would also apply to those with child in need and early help plans.

### **Important Contacts for Fernhurst Junior School**

	Name	Contact
DSL (Designated safeguarding lead)	Roberta Kirby Head Teacher	02392 735998
Deputy DSL	Clare Goodall	02392 735998
Deputy DSL	Cheryl Hudson	02392 735998
Deputy DSL	Sarah Rayner	02392 735998
MASH Multi-Agency Safeguarding HUB		0845 671 0271 02392 688793
LADO (local Authority Designated Officer)	Rebecca Paradise	02392 882500
NSPCC whistle blowing advice line	<a href="https://www.nspcc.org.uk/keeping-children-safe/reporting-abuse/dedicated-helplines/whistleblowing-advice-line/">https://www.nspcc.org.uk/keeping-children-safe/reporting-abuse/dedicated-helplines/whistleblowing-advice-line/</a>	0808 800 5000 0800 028 0285 <a href="mailto:heal@nspcc.org.uk">heal@nspcc.org.uk</a>

This policy should be read in conjunction with:

[Appendix 1 - further detailed information](#)

[Guidance and Procedure](#)

[Administration of Medicines Policy](#)

[SEN Policy](#)

[Behaviour Policy](#)

(On the staff drive under policies)

## **Legislation and Statutory guidance**

- Section 175 of the Education Act 2002, which places a duty on schools and local authorities to safeguard and promote the welfare of pupils
- The School Staffing (England) Regulations 2009, which set out what must be recorded on the single central record and the requirement for at least one person conducting an interview to be trained in safer recruitment techniques
- The Children Act 1989 (and 2004 amendment), which provides a framework for the care and protection of children
- Section 5B(11) of the Female Genital Mutilation Act 2003, as inserted by section 74 of the Serious Crime Act 2015, which places a statutory duty on teachers to report to the police where they discover that female genital mutilation (FGM) appears to have been carried out on a girl under 18
- Statutory guidance on FGM, which sets out responsibilities with regards to safeguarding and supporting girls affected by FGM
- The Rehabilitation of Offenders Act 1974, which outlines when people with criminal convictions can work with children
- Schedule 4 of the Safeguarding Vulnerable Groups Act 2006, which defines what 'regulated activity' is in relation to children
- Statutory guidance on the Prevent duty, which explains schools' duties under the Counter-Terrorism and Security Act 2015 with respect to protecting people from the risk of radicalisation and extremism

**Reviewed by Governors:**

**July 2022**

**Next Review:**

**Summer 2023**

**Signed (Chair of Governors):**