

Safeguarding Policy for Oakhurst Community First School

Oakhurst Community First School recognises that the welfare of the child is paramount and takes seriously its responsibility to safeguard and promote the welfare of the children and young people in its care.

An agreed definition of safeguarding is: 'All agencies take all reasonable measures to ensure that the risks of harm to children's welfare are minimised. Where there are concerns, all agencies take action to address those concerns, working to agreed local policies and procedures in full partnership with other local agencies' - Joint Chief Inspectors' report 2002.

Promoting welfare involves 'creating opportunities to enable children to have optimum life chances in adulthood' – Framework for the Assessment of Children in Need and their Families (Government guidance 2000).

The Governing Body will act in accordance with Section 175 (or Section 157, for Independent Schools) of the Education Act 2002 and the supporting statutory guidance 'Safeguarding Children and Safer Recruitment in Education' (2006) to safeguard and promote the welfare of children in this school.

All children have the right to be safeguarded from harm or exploitation whatever their

- race, religion, first language or ethnicity
- gender or sexuality
- age
- health or disability
- political or immigration status

Governors, staff and volunteers in this school understand the importance of working in partnership with children, their parents/carers and other agencies in order to promote children's welfare.

The purpose of this policy is to:

- give protection for the students at Oakhurst Community First School
- enable staff and volunteers to safeguard and promote the welfare of children
- promote a culture which makes this school a safe place to learn

This policy applies to the Headteacher, all staff (including supply and peripatetic staff), volunteers, governors or anyone working on behalf of Oakhurst Community First School.

We will endeavour to safeguard children and young people by:

- valuing them, listening to and respecting them
- involving them in decisions which affect them
- making sure all staff and volunteers are aware of and committed to the safeguarding policy and child protection procedures*
- sharing information about concerns with agencies who need to know, and involving children and their parents/carers appropriately
- recruiting staff and volunteers safely, ensuring all necessary checks are made*
- adopting a code of conduct for all staff and volunteers*
- providing effective management through induction, support and training
- ensuring staff and volunteers understand about 'whistle blowing'*
- dealing appropriately with allegations/concerns about staff or volunteers, in accordance with Government guidance*

*see separate policy/guidance

Related policies are available on Merlin, school website and policy files. Copies are also kept in the Safeguarding file.

Related policies: -

- Code of Conduct and Guidelines for Safe Working Practices for the Protection of Children and Staff
- Safeguarding Children: Whistle Blowing
- Visitors in School
- Policy for Taking and Using Photographic Images of Children
- Intimate Care
- Anti-Bullying
- E-safety
- Confidentiality

Policy adopted by Governing Body: 9th November 2009

Review date: November 2010

Reviewed Nov. 2010

Review date: November 2011

Reviewed January 2012

Review date: January 2013