

# Child Protection at St Augustine's



Under the Education Act 2002 (section 175/157), schools must “make arrangements to safeguard and promote the welfare of children”.

**We will endeavour to provide a safe and welcoming environment where children are respected and valued.**

The school will therefore be alert to signs of abuse and neglect and will follow the Cambridge and Peterborough Safeguarding Children Partnership Board (CPSCP) procedures to ensure that children receive appropriate and effective support and protection.

Parents/carers should know that the law requires all school staff to pass on information which gives rise to a concern about a child's welfare, including risk from neglect, physical, emotional or sexual abuse. The school should make parents/carers aware that records of welfare concerns may be kept about their child. They should be informed that school staff will seek, in general, to discuss any concerns with them including referrals to other agencies. However, in situations where the child is suspected to be at risk of harm, the law says that schools may take advice from other agencies without informing parents/carers.

In accordance with local Information Sharing protocols, we will ensure that information is shared securely and sensitively. Information will only be shared with other services where it is deemed necessary and proportionate to ensure that children and young people are safe and receive the right service. In all circumstances, the safety of the child will be the paramount concern.

Where there is a need to share special category personal data, the Data Protection Act 2018 contains “**safeguarding of children and individuals at risk**” as a processing condition that allows professionals to share information. This includes allowing them to share information **without consent**, if it is not possible to gain consent, it cannot be reasonably expected that a professional gains consent, or if to gain consent would place a child at risk.

Schools will seek advice from Social Care when they have reasonable cause to suspect a child may be suffering or likely to suffer significant harm. Occasionally, concerns are passed on which are later shown to be unfounded. Parents/carers will appreciate that the member of staff in the school with responsibility for child protection (known as the Designated Safeguarding Lead or Designated Person) was carrying out their responsibilities in accordance with the law and acting in the best interests of all children.

Under Section 3 (5) of the Children Act 1989, schools or any person who has care of a child “may....do what is reasonable in all the circumstances of the case for the purpose of safeguarding or promoting the child's welfare”. This means that on rare occasions, a school may need to “hold” a child in school whilst Social Care and the police investigate any concerns further.

The word ‘school’ is used throughout but this would include all educational settings e.g. Academies, Pupil Referral Units, Further Education establishments and Independent schools.

# **St AUGUSTINE'S CE (VA) JUNIOR SCHOOL HAS SAFEGUARDING AT THE HEART OF OUR PURPOSE**

## **A POSITIVE AND PREVENTATIVE CURRICULUM**

Our curriculum-based awareness education programme teaches our pupils to make good choices about healthy and safe lifestyles (online safety, healthy relationships, abuse, neglect, bullying etc.) and how and who to ask for help if their health or safety is threatened.



## **A SAFE LEARNING ENVIRONMENT**

We are committed to providing a secure environment, where all learners feel safe; where it is ok to talk and we listen to our pupils; where they do not face bullying, racism, homophobia or other discrimination, and where medical needs are met.

## **PARTNERSHIP WITH PARENTS AND CARERS**

We make sure our safeguarding policies and procedures, and information relating to the duty we have to keep all children safe, is fully accessible to all our parents and carers and is published on our school website.

## **INCLUSIVE PRACTICE**

All children with safeguarding needs are carefully monitored to ensure they have effective support to communicate their needs to staff and feel valued.

## **EARLY INTERVENTION**

Children with additional needs are identified at the earliest possible opportunity and referred to other professionals as appropriate.

## **“WORKING TOGETHER TO SAFEGUARD CHILDREN 2018”**

Defines safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children as:

- PROTECTING CHILDREN FROM MALTREATMENT
- PREVENTING IMPAIRMENT OF CHILDREN'S HEALTH AND DEVELOPMENT
- ENSURING THAT CHILDREN ARE GROWING UP IN CIRCUMSTANCES CONSISTENT WITH THE PROVISION OF SAFE AND EFFECTIVE CARE; AND
- TAKING ACTION TO ENABLE ALL CHILDREN TO HAVE THE BEST LIFE CHANCES

## **SAFEGUARDING POLICIES, PROCEDURES AND GUIDANCE**

Safeguarding documents are easily accessible and are understood by all staff and volunteers. All staff and volunteers are expected to follow safeguarding procedures. Policies are reviewed annually.

## **APPROPRIATE TRAINING**

Every member of staff, including temporary staff and volunteers, is appropriately trained in child protection. They understand their responsibilities and know who to refer their concerns to. They are confident about what is expected of them in their day to day role in order to safeguard children and young people.

## **SAFER RECRUITMENT AND SELECTION**

We follow safer selection practices to identify, deter and reject those who might be unsuited to work with children. We ensure that adults are aware of how to deal with allegations of child abuse made against other members of staff and support them to do so. Allegations made against staff are referred to the Designated Officer at the Local Authority.