

# A POLICY FOR SAFEGUARDING CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE



## WHARTON C.E. (CONTROLLED) PRIMARY SCHOOL

*"Education staff have a crucial role to play in helping identify welfare concerns and indications of possible abuse or neglect at an early stage."*

Working Together 2006

*"Schools have a duty to ensure that their functions relating to the conduct of the school are exercised with a view to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of the children who are its pupils."*

Education Act 2002 Section 175

*"Children become the victims or beneficiaries of adult actions"*  
*Hugh Cunningham 2006*

Reviewed April 2016

# A POLICY FOR SAFEGUARDING CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE



## WHARTON C.E. (CONTROLLED) PRIMARY SCHOOL

### INTRODUCTION

The Governing Body of Wharton C.E. Primary School has adopted this Safeguarding Children and Young People Policy from Cheshire West and Chester Council.

This policy was shared for approval at the Full Governing Body meeting on 25<sup>th</sup> April 2016.

### POLICY STATEMENT

Wharton C.E. Primary School recognises its duty of care for Safeguarding Children and Young People.

All governors and staff at Wharton CE Primary School understand that "Safeguarding" is an umbrella term encompassing the whole wellbeing of a child and recognises the importance of the preventative agenda. Child Protection is an important component of "safeguarding"

### DEFINITION

All adults working in education have a duty to safeguard and promote the welfare of children which is defined in the Children Act 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
- Undertaking that role so as to have optimum life chances and to enter adulthood successfully.

Working Together 2006 P34

The health, safety and well-being of all our children at Wharton CE Primary School are of paramount importance to all the adults who work in our school. Our children have the right to be safe in school and this right of protection is regardless of age, gender, race, culture or disability.

At Wharton CE Primary School, we recognise the contribution that we as adults can make to protect our children and support them in school and to help make the right decisions in different situations. Every member of staff has a key role in prevention of harm, early identification, intervention and support for pupils at risk of significant harm and will endeavour to provide an environment where children are valued and know that their concerns will be taken seriously.

## **LEADERSHIP AND MANAGEMENT**

This school acknowledges that anxiety undermines good practice and has identified a clear line of accountability to ensure that staff dealing with child welfare concerns are supported and have access to appropriate training and advice. At Wharton CE Primary School any individual can contact the following if they have concerns about a young person:-

Safeguarding Lead is Claire Spinks, Headteacher

Deputy Safeguarding Lead is Mrs Julie Maloney, Family Coordinator

The Safeguarding Governor is Duncan Fitzgibbons

## **TRAINING**

*"Staff across frontline services need appropriate support and training to ensure that as far as possible they put themselves in the place of the child or young person and consider first and foremost how that situation must feel for them. " Lord Laming 2009*

**All frontline staff in Education should be aware of the signs and symptoms of abuse and know how to respond appropriately to these concerns. Every one has a duty to make a brief, accurate record of the concerns and to discuss these without delay with the safeguarding lead, Mrs C Spinks.**

The designated Child Protection lead, Mrs C Spinks and deputy safeguarding lead Julie Maloney have undertaken training in inter-agency working up to Level 3. Added to this all staff at Wharton CE who work with children receive basic training in Child Protection and this is updated every 3 years.

## Types of Abuse and Neglect

**Physical Abuse** ; Physical abuse may involve hitting, shaking, throwing, poisoning, burning or scalding, drowning, suffocating, or otherwise causing physical harm to a child. Physical harm may also be caused when a parent or carer fabricates the symptoms of, or deliberately induces, illness in a child.

**Emotional Abuse**; Is the *PERSISTENT* emotional maltreatment of a child such as to cause severe and persistent adverse effects on the child's emotional development. It may involve conveying to children that they are worthless or unloved, inadequate, or valued only insofar as they meet the needs of another person. It may include not giving the child opportunities to express their views, deliberately silencing them or 'making fun' of what they say or how they communicate. It may feature age or developmentally inappropriate expectations being imposed on children. These may include interactions that are beyond the child's developmental capability, as well as overprotection and limitation of exploration and learning, or preventing the child participating in normal social interaction. It may involve seeing or hearing the ill-treatment of another. It may involve serious bullying (including cyberbullying), causing children frequently to feel frightened or in danger, or the exploitation or corruption of children. Some level of emotional abuse is involved in all types of maltreatment of a child, though it may occur alone.

**Sexual Abuse** ; Involves forcing or enticing a child or young person to take part in sexual activities, not necessarily involving a high level of violence, whether or not the child is aware of what is happening. The activities may involve physical contact, including assault by penetration (for example, rape or oral sex) or non-penetrative acts\_such as masturbation, kissing, rubbing and touching outside of clothing. They may also include non-contact activities, such as involving children in looking at, or in the production of, sexual images, watching sexual activities, encouraging children to behave in sexually inappropriate ways, or grooming a child in preparation for abuse (including via the internet). Sexual abuse is not solely perpetrated by adult males. Women can also commit acts of sexual abuse, as can other children.

**Neglect**. Is the *PERSISTENT* failure to meet a child's basic physical and/or psychological needs, likely to result in the serious impairment of the child's health or development? Neglect may occur during pregnancy as a result of maternal substance abuse. Once a child is born, neglect may involve a parent or carer failing to:

- provide adequate food, clothing and shelter (including exclusion from home or abandonment);
- protect a child from physical and emotional harm or danger;
- ensure adequate supervision (including the use of inadequate care-givers); or
- ensure access to appropriate medical care or treatment.

It may also include neglect of, or unresponsiveness to, a child's basic emotional needs.

**Child Sexual Exploitation**; Sexual exploitation is a form of sexual abuse, in which a young person is manipulated or forced into taking part in a sexual act. This could be as part of a

seemingly consensual relationship, or in return for attention, affection, money, drugs, alcohol or somewhere to stay.

The young person may think that their abuser is their friend, or even their boyfriend or girlfriend. But they will put them into dangerous situations, forcing the young person to do things they don't want to do. The abuser may physically or verbally threaten the young person, or be violent towards them. They will control and manipulate them, and try to isolate them from friends and family.

**Domestic Abuse;** The effect of witnessing or being the subject of Domestic Violence on children must be considered as abuse. It can be categorized as physical and/or emotional abuse

**Female Genital Mutilation;** Female Genital Mutilation (FGM) is "a collective term for all procedures involving the partial or total removal of external female genitalia for cultural or other non-therapeutic reasons"

- In the UK, where it is considered to be child abuse, FGM is illegal. It is also illegal to take a child abroad for FGM purposes.
- The time when FGM is most likely to take place is at the start of the summer holidays, as there is then sufficient time for the girl to recover before returning to school
- Up to 24,000 girls under the age of 15 might be at risk in the UK. Over 137,000 women living in England & Wales have undergone FGM and since 2008, 1.5% of all women who gave birth in England and Wales had undergone FGM
- Mandatory reporting to police for all professionals will commence in Oct 2015 (Section 5B FGM Act 2003 & section 74 of serious crime act 2015)
- You should not be examining pupils.

### **Listening to and responding to children**

**"Every child should be listened to, no matter how difficult they are to talk to" Laming Report 2009**

We recognise that, high self esteem, confidence, supportive friends and clear lines of communication with a trusted adult help all children and especially those at risk of, or suffering from abuse. At Wharton CE we acknowledge that empowering young people to talk to adults that they trust and ensuring that these individuals respond appropriately, is the most effective way of keeping children safe from abuse.

Our school will therefore:-

- Establish and maintain an ethos where children feel secure and are encouraged to talk, and are listened to. This is achieved through a number of ways e.g. having worry boxes in every room that are opened regularly and the contents discussed with the class with follow up time given to particular groups or individuals where needed.
- Having a school suggestion box and timetabling circle times where key issues are discussed and developed

- Having a school council that children themselves may set the agenda for and having the SEAL programme firmly embedded within our school.
- Ensuring children have access to 'Nurture Group' sessions as appropriate for their individual needs.
- We ensure that children know that there are adults in the school who they can approach if they are worried or in difficulty. This will be achieved by discussing with the children via the school council how this can be ensured and adopting any suggestions they make and through school assemblies and safeguarding notices.
- Our teaching of personal, social and health education and citizenship, as part of the School Curriculum, helps to develop appropriate attitudes in our children and makes them aware of the impact of their decisions on others. We also teach them how to recognise different risks in different situations and how to behave in response to them.
- We ensure that wherever possible every effort is made to establish effective working relationships with parents and colleagues from other agencies.

### **Record keeping procedure**

- Any member of staff who has concerns about the welfare of a child must share this information, without delay with the Safeguarding Lead, Mrs C. Spinks or Mrs Julie Maloney, Family Coordinator.
- Staff must make a brief, accurate record of these concerns using the agreed yellow proforma, recording any allegations that the child makes in the child's own words if possible.
- These records must be stored securely and the information shared with staff only on a "need to know basis".
- The child protection record must be transferred to the Safeguarding Lead of the admitting school should the child change schools. Any records are to be hand delivered or collected and signed for using a transfer of records form.

### **Confidentiality**

- We recognise that all matters relating to child protection are confidential
- The Headteacher will disclose any information about a pupil to other members of staff on a need to know basis only.
- All staff must be aware that they have a professional responsibility to share information with other agencies in order to safeguard children.
- All staff must be aware that they cannot make a promise to a child to keep secrets.

## Referral

The designated safeguarding lead assesses all information available to the school about a child and refers to the Social Care contact and referral Team if appropriate

### Contact Numbers

CART Tel No: 01606 275099

## Support for Vulnerable pupils

We are committed to working with other agencies to support our most vulnerable students. We recognise we can contribute to this by contributing to the TAF (Team Around the Family) process, attending Child Protection Conferences, LAC (Looked After Children) meetings, Core Groups and Child Care meetings.

Wharton C.E. Primary School undertakes regularly reviews in regard to the emotional wellbeing of ALL the pupils.

## E-Safety

We recognise that technology through photographic images and the internet has vastly increased the potential for misuse. New technologies while enhancing learning opportunities can provide ways of exposing young people to potentially harmful experiences. This school has an acceptable user policy and all staff must take such abuse seriously. Procedures are outlined in the E-Safety policy.

We believe that photographs and video recordings are a wonderful method to record and celebrate achievement in a whole range of school life. However, we appreciate the need to respect and protect the right of all families to maintain their confidentiality, especially for those children who are adopted or are living in care. Where images of children are taken we ensure that:-

- Permission is given by families for images to be taken; a central record is kept in the main school office
- Names of our children are not printed which could identify individuals without parental consent
- All images taken are available for scrutiny if requested
- Images taken by parents are not to be circulated more widely than the family

- No member of staff will take any images of children using their mobile phone so that these are not taken off school site inadvertently

## Domestic Abuse

"The effect of domestic violence on children is such that it must be considered as abuse"

Safeguarding Children and Safer Recruitment in Education 2007

- Statistics confirm the strong link between domestic abuse and Child Abuse

Our Staff must take any incidents of domestic abuse seriously and take a proactive role in ensuring the safety of those impacted including contributing to the MARAC (Multi-Agency Risk Assessment Conferencing) process and referring pupils for additional support.

## Bullying

*"The damage inflicted by bullying can frequently be underestimated. It can cause considerable distress to children, to the extent it affects their health and development or, at the extreme, causes them significant harm (including self harm). All settings in which children are provided with services or are living away from home should have in place rigorously enforced anti bullying strategies."*

Working Together to Safeguard Children 2006

This policy must be read in conjunction with other pupil welfare policies eg The Positive Management of Pupil Behaviour (approved Autumn 2012)

## Making Children Aware

As part of developing a healthy lifestyle children should be taught:-

- to recognise and manage risks in different situations and then decide how to behave appropriately
- to judge what kind of physical contact is acceptable and unacceptable
- to recognise when pressure from others (including people they know) threatens their personal safety and develop effective ways of resisting pressure, including knowing where and when to get help
- to use assertiveness techniques to resist unhelpful pressure

Children should feel valued, respected and able to discuss any concerns they have.

## Safer Recruitment and Retention



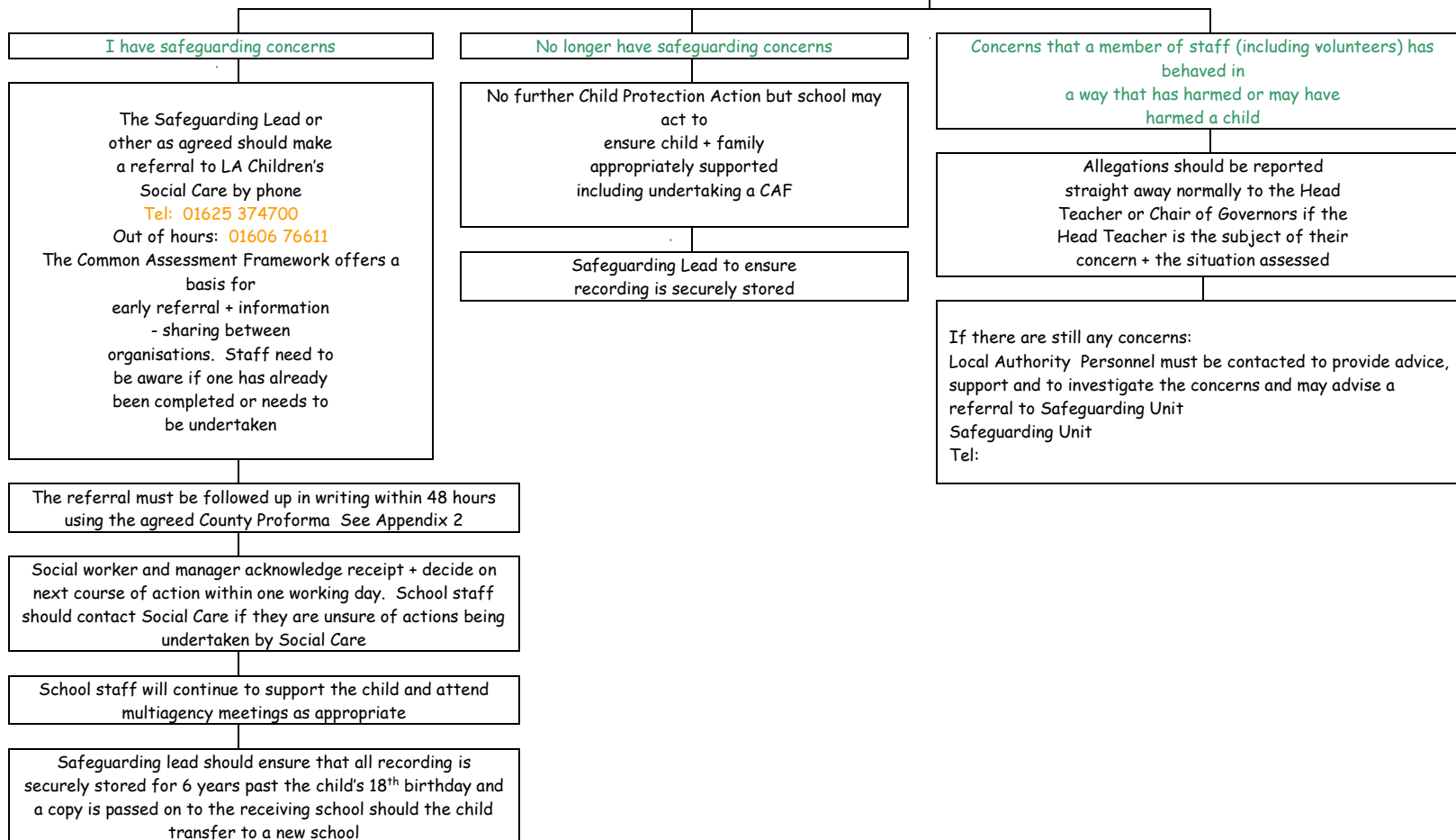
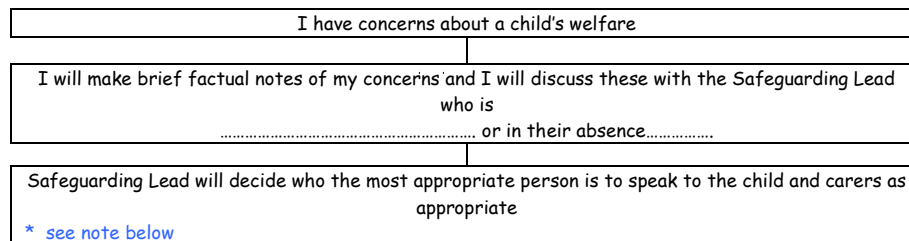
- This school operates vetting and safe recruitment practices.
- Claire Spinks, Headteacher and Carol Hitchen, Vice Chair of Governors, are accredited in Safer Recruitment and at least one member of the recruitment panel will have passed the required assessment. All staff will be given safeguarding and code of conduct information as part of their induction.
- Procedures are in place to support all staff who have concerns about the conduct of any adults working in school, either in a professional role or in a voluntary capacity and these are outlined in the school 'Whistle Blowing' (Given to all staff and updated and approved by Governors Autumn 2012) and the School Complaints Procedure (Autumn 2012)
- Wharton CE Primary School has an updated Safer Recruitment Policy (Summer 2012).

### **Allegations against professional carers**

In the event of an allegation about the behaviour of a teacher or other professional carer, Wharton CE Primary School will contact the personnel department/safeguarding unit and follow Local Authority procedures.

If you're worried a child is subject to any form of any abuse

What to Do...



\* Professionals should seek to discuss any concerns with the family and where possible to seek their agreement to make referrals to LA Children's Social Care. This should only be done where such discussion and agreement-seeking will not place a child at increased risk of significant harm eg not in cases where sexual abuse is suspected. Working Together 2006 p104

## Contacts

Social Care Access Team - East	0300 123 5012
Contact and Referral team - West	01606 275099
Safeguarding Children in Education Team	0151 3566 566
Domestic Abuse Family Safety Unit	01606 351375
Public Protection Unit	01606 363 293
Childline	0800 1111
National Domestic Violence Helpline	0808 2000 247
NSPCC	0808 800 5000

## Useful Links

[www.cheshire.gov.uk/socialcareandhealth/children/LSCB](http://www.cheshire.gov.uk/socialcareandhealth/children/LSCB)

[www.nspcc.org.uk](http://www.nspcc.org.uk)

[www.everychildmatters.gov.uk](http://www.everychildmatters.gov.uk)

[www.ceop.gov.uk](http://www.ceop.gov.uk)

[www.teachernet.gov.uk](http://www.teachernet.gov.uk)

[www.kidscape.org.uk](http://www.kidscape.org.uk)

The department for Children, School and Families - [www.dcsf.gov.uk](http://www.dcsf.gov.uk)

## Glossary

### Commonly Used Acronyms

ACPO	Association Chief Police Officers
MARAC	Multi Agency Risk Assessment Conference
MAPPA	Multi Agency Public Protection Arrangements
LSCB	Local Safeguarding Children Board
YOT	Youth Offending Team
SCiE	Safeguarding Children in Education
SCR	Serious Case Review
CAF	Common Assessment Framework
EWS	Education Welfare Service
ECM	Every Child Matters
DCSF	Dept of Children, Schools and Families
DV	Domiciliary Visit <u>or</u> Domestic Violence
RIP	Research in Practice
CAVA	Children and Vulnerable Adults (a Police Database)

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If I am worried I can talk to:  
Safeguarding Lead **Claire Spinks**  
or **Julie Maloney** or **Christel Remond**  
Safeguarding Governor **Julie Maloney**  
Safeguarding Children in Education Adviser 0151 337 4570

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