

Policy for Safeguarding and Promoting the Welfare of Children



Important contacts for the School:

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| Designated member of staff (Headteacher) | Tina Clarke |
| Deputy Designated member of staff | Lisa Solanki Danielle Rees |
| Designated Governor | Clare Offer |
| York Customer Advice Centre (Front Door Team) | 01904 551900 |
| Children and Family Services (office hours) | 01904 554141 |
| Emergency duty team- (out of office hours) | 01904 762314 |
| Local Police /Kathryn Bean PCSO | 0845 6060247 |
| Local Authority Designated Officer (LADO) :Joe Cocker | 01904 555695 |
| Education, Assistant Director Children and Families : Eoin Rush | 01904 554212 |
| Educational Psychologist: Penny Taylor | 01904 554345 |
| Primary Mental Health Worker: Gemma Williams | 01904 551250 |
| School Nurse/Technician: Sandra Clay/Nicola Coventry | 01904 725331 |
| Education Welfare Officer : Mark Smith | 01904 622935 |
| Referral and Assessment Team (within "The New Front Door") www.saferchildrenyork.org.uk cyscb@york.gov.uk | 01904 551900 |

RATIONALE

The school is a key front-line player, working in partnership with other children's services, and therefore staff should always be mindful of local policies and procedures, that must be followed, and which are under the direction of the Local Safeguarding Children's Board and statutory requirements.

At Fishergate Primary School, we recognise that:

- The welfare of the child is paramount
- All children, regardless of age, disability, gender, racial heritage, religious belief, sexual orientation or identity, have the right to equal protection from all types of harm or abuse
- Working in partnership with children, young people and their parents, carers and other agencies, is essential in promoting young people's welfare

STATUTORY CONTEXT

In order to safeguard and promote the children's welfare, the school will act in accordance with all relevant legislation and guidance, including: the Children Acts 1989 and 2004; Education Act 2002 (section 175); Safeguarding Children; Safer Recruitment in Education (2007) and Working Together to Safeguard Children (HM Government 2014).

AIMS

This policy aims to outline the duty that the school has, the procedures that staff should follow and guidance on issues relating to safeguarding and child protection generally. It is not exhaustive. All staff should use as a rule of thumb, the needs and safety of the child as being at the centre of any decision they may need to take.

The purpose of the policy:

- To provide protection for the children and young people who are part of the Fishergate School Community
- To provide staff and volunteers with guidance on procedures they should adopt in the event that they suspect a child or young person may be experiencing, or be at risk of, harm
- The policy applies to all staff, including senior managers, governors, paid staff, volunteers, sessional workers, agency staff, students, or anyone working on behalf of Fishergate Primary School

We will seek to safeguard children and young people by:

- Valuing, listening to and respecting them
- Adopting child protection guidelines through procedures and a code of conduct for staff and volunteers
- Recruiting staff and volunteers safely, ensuring all necessary checks are made
- Sharing information about child protection and good practice with children, parents, staff and volunteers
- Sharing information about concerns with agencies who need to know, and involving parents and children appropriately

- Providing effective management for staff and volunteers through supervision, support and training

DEFINITIONS

For the purpose of this policy, Fishergate Primary School adopts the definition of safeguarding used in the Children's Act 2004, and in the government's guidance document 'Working Together to Safeguard Children' 2006. This can be summarised as:

- protecting children and young people from maltreatment
- preventing impairment of children and young people's health or development
- ensuring that children and young people are growing up in circumstances consistent with the provision of safe and effective care
- undertaking that role so as to enable children and young people to have optimum life chances and to enter adulthood successfully.

PARENTS UNFIT TO ACCOMPANY A CHILD

The school will not allow parents / carers to take responsibility for a child when they are not considered capable of safely supervising them due to, for example, alcohol, drugs or illness. (See our Child Protection policy for further details)

Absences – unexplained or unauthorised pupil absences will be followed up rigorously by the school.

Transition – strategies are put in place for vulnerable children entering or transferring from the school.

Training – effective monitoring of records informs the training programme for staff and governors. There is a rolling programme of child protection and safeguarding training for the Headteacher, staff and governors, to equip them to carry out their responsibilities effectively. The training is kept up to date by regular refresher training.

CHILD PROTECTION

Child protection is part of safeguarding and promoting welfare. This refers to the activity that is undertaken to protect specific children who are suffering, or at risk of suffering significant harm.

Everyone employed at our school has a responsibility in relation to child protection. In most cases this will be the referral of concerns to his/ her line manager. In day to day contact with children at risk, we have opportunity to note concerns and to meet with parents and other associated adults, where this is appropriate.

Increasingly, schools are expected to work with, and support different agencies to enable the most appropriate form of intervention to take place.

ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

DESIGNATED TEACHER FOR CHILD PROTECTION

Mrs Tina Clarke is the head teacher and the designated teacher for child protection. In his absence the deputy designated teachers, Lisa Solanki or Dani Rees, should be approached.

It is the responsibility of the designated teacher to:

- ensure that staff are familiar with the policy and procedures
- act as a source of advice within the school
- be the first point of contact for any adult concerned about a child's health or safety
- support a member of staff involved in a child protection issue and offer advice
- make contact with social services and , if necessary, make a referral
- co-ordinate action within the school and liaise with Social Care and other agencies over cases of abuse and suspected abuse
- keep records of child protection issues relating to individuals in the school
- decide who should attend child protection conferences when necessary
- ensure all child protection records are kept secure
- ensure adequate training is provided for staff and children (as part of their curriculum)
- ensure that the child protection policy is effectively implemented.

Where verbal referrals are made to social care, the referral should be made in writing within 24 hours. Where there is uncertainty about making a full referral, advice can be sought from Children's Services department of 'York Customer Advice Centre' without giving the child's details.

DESIGNATED GOVERNOR FOR CHILD PROTECTION

The designated governor for safeguarding and child protection is Mrs Clare Offer. It is the designated governor's responsibility to:

- take over child protection responsibilities in the absence of the designated teacher(s)
- be a second point of contact to all staff on child protection issues e.g. if the issue is directly related to the conduct of the designated teacher
- liaise with the designated teacher(s) on child protection issues, including the regular review of this policy.

TEACHING STAFF AND SUPPORT STAFF

New members of staff are issued with the Safeguarding policy as part of their induction. All members of staff are expected to sign to say they have read and understood their roles and responsibilities within the policy when it is updated and to attend the relevant child protection training, provided by the school. Supply teachers are provided with a summary of the child protection procedures (Appendix 1) in the supply teachers induction pack. This is handed to each supply teacher on arrival.

All staff need to be alert to the signs of abuse as detailed in this policy. They should report any concerns immediately, where possible to the designated teacher. If in any doubt they should consult with the designated teacher.

Apply the procedures detailed below for responding to a suspected case remembering that:

- you cannot promise confidentiality
- information should only be shared with those who need to know
- it is important to stay calm and reassuring
- the needs and safety of the child must always come first

- when in doubt - ask

GUIDANCE ON RECOGNISING SUSPECTED ABUSE

Child abuse is a term used to describe ways in which children are harmed by someone often in a position of power. It may not be our responsibility to decide whether child abuse is occurring but we are required to act on any concerns and report it to the appropriate party. **The health, safety and protection of a child is paramount.**

PHYSICAL ABUSE

Physical abuse can include hitting, shaking, throwing, poisoning, burning, scalding, suffocating or causing any form of physical harm to a child. Possible signs include:

- Unexplained injuries or burns
- Refusal to discuss injuries
- Improbable explanations of injuries
- Untreated injuries or lingering illness
- Admission of punishment which appears excessive
- Shrinking from physical contact
- Fear of returning home or parents being contacted
- Fear of undressing
- Fear of medical help
- Aggression/ bullying
- Over compliant behaviour
- Running away
- Significant changes in behaviour
- Deterioration in work
- Unexplained pattern of absences

EMOTIONAL ABUSE

This is the persistent emotional ill treatment of a child such as to cause severe and persistent adverse effects on a child’s emotional development. It can include:

- conveying to a child that they are worthless or unloved
- placing inappropriate age-related expectations on children
- making children feel frightened or in danger on a frequent basis

Possible signs of emotional abuse include:

- Continual self-deprecation
- Fear of new situations
- Inappropriate emotional responses to painful situations
- Self-harm or mutilation
- Compulsive stealing/ scrounging
- Drug/ solvent abuse
- ‘Neurotic’ behaviour – obsessive rocking, thumb-sucking
- Air of detachment ‘don’t care’ attitude
- Social isolation
- Attention-seeking behaviour
- Eating problems
- Depression, withdrawal

SEXUAL ABUSE

Sexual abuse involves forcing or enticing a child or young person to take part in sexual activities, whether or not the child is aware of what is happening. They can include non-contact activities such as involving children looking at, or in the production of, pornographic material or watching sexual activities, or encouraging children to behave in sexually inappropriate ways.

Possible signs include:

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| Bruises, scratches, burns or bite marks Scratches abrasions or persistent infection in the anal or genital regions Pregnancy Sexual awareness inappropriate to the child's age Frequent public masturbation Attempts to teach other children about sexual activity Refusing to stay with certain people or go to certain places Aggressiveness, anger, anxiety, tearfulness Withdrawal from friends |
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NEGLECT

Neglect is also a form of abuse. It is the persistent failure to meet a child's basic physical and/or psychological needs and can affect the child's health and development.

It might include failure to provide adequate food, shelter and clothing, failure to protect a child from physical harm or danger, failure to ensure appropriate access to medical care and treatment.

Possible signs include:

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| Constant hunger Poor personal hygiene Inappropriate clothing Frequent lateness or non-attendance Untreated medical problems Low self-esteem Poor social relationships Compulsive stealing or scrounging Constant tiredness |
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BULLYING

Bullying can be defined as using deliberately hurtful behaviour, usually over a period of time, where it is difficult for those bullied to defend themselves. The three main types of bullying are:

- physical
- verbal
- emotional

All incidents of bullying should be dealt with by the class teacher in the first instance, followed by the key stage leader and/or headteacher as appropriate.

A more detailed guide can be found in the school's anti-bullying policy.

SELF HARM

If it comes to the attention of a teacher/member of staff that a child is self-harming, they should alert the designated teacher for child protection. Actions by the designated teacher might include:

- contacting parents
- contacting Child Adolescent Mental Health Services

- contacting Children's Services if the child meets the referral criteria

FEMALE GENITAL MUTILATION (FGM)

The school uses the World Health Organisation definition as written below.

Definition of FGM:

"Female Genital Mutilation (FGM) comprises of all procedures involving partial or total removal of the external female genitalia or other injury to the female genital organs whether for cultural or non-therapeutic reasons."

(World Health Organisation-1997)

The UK Government has written advice and guidance on FGM that states;

"FGM is considered child abuse in the UK and a grave violation of the human rights of girls and women. In all circumstances where FGM is practised on a child it is a violation of the child's right to life, their right to their bodily integrity, as well as their right to health. The UK Government has signed a number of international human rights laws against FGM, including the Convention on the Rights of the Child."

"Girls are at particular risk of FGM during school summer holidays. This is the time when families may take their children abroad for the procedure. Many girls may not be aware that they may be at risk of undergoing FGM.

UK communities that are most at risk of FGM include Kenyans, Somalis, Sudanese, Sierra Leoneans, Egyptians, Nigerians and Eritreans. However women from non-African communities that are at risk of FGM include Yemeni, Kurdish, Indonesian and Pakistani women."

As from January 2013 Ofsted have included FGM in their "Inspecting Safeguarding" briefing for Inspectors. Annex 4 contains questions and information about FGM for inspectors. Below are excerpts from this document;

ANNEX 4. FEMALE GENITAL MUTILATION

"....Designated senior staff for child protection in schools should be aware of the guidance that is available in respect of FGM, and should be vigilant to the risk of it being practised. Inspectors should be also alert to this when considering a school's safeguarding arrangements, and where appropriate ask questions of designated staff.

In light of this information Fishergate Primary School has decided to implement these policies and procedures.

Procedures School has in place:

Fishergate Primary School has decided to take proactive action to protect and prevent our girls being forced to undertake FGM. The Headteacher and Governors do this in 4 ways:

1. A robust attendance policy that does not authorise holidays, extended or otherwise.
2. FGM training for Child Protection leads and disseminated training for all staff at the front line dealing with the children.
3. FGM discussions by Child Protection lead with parents of children from practising communities who are at risk.
4. Comprehensive PSHE and Relationship and Sex Education delivered to KS2 children with a discussion about FGM with Year 6 girls.

In order to protect our children it is important that key information is known by all of the school community. Indications that FGM has taken place:

- Prolonged absence from school with noticeable behaviour change – especially after a return from holiday.
- Spend long periods of time away from the class during the day.
- A child who has undergone FGM should be seen as a child protection issue. Medical assessment and therapeutic services to be considered at the Strategy Meeting.

Indications that a child is at risk of FGM:

- The family comes from a community that is known to practice FGM - especially if there are elderly women present.
- In conversation a child may talk about FGM.
- A child may express anxiety about a special ceremony.
- The child may talk or have anxieties about forthcoming holidays to their country of origin.
- Parent/Guardian requests permission for authorised absence for overseas travel or you are aware that absence is required for vaccinations.
- If a woman has already undergone FGM – and it comes to the attention of any professional, consideration needs to be given to any Child Protection implications e.g. for younger siblings, extended family members and a referral made to Social Care or the Police if appropriate.

GUIDANCE ON DEALING WITH SUSPECTED ABUSE

All staff should refer concerns to the designated teacher as soon as possible. In the meantime, they should:

- listen to the pupil, keeping calm and offering reassurance
- observe bruises but should not ask a child to remove or adjust their clothing to observe them
- if a disclosure is made the child should lead the discussion. Do not press for details by asking questions like ‘what did they do next?’
- Listen – don’t investigate using questions such as “is there anything else you’d like to tell me?”
- Accept what the pupil says without challenge – reassure them that they are doing the right thing and that you recognise how hard it is for them
- Don’t lay blame or criticise either the child or the perpetrator
- Don’t promise confidentiality- explain that they have done the right thing and who you will need to tell and why

PROCEDURES FOR MONITORING, RECORDING AND REPORTING

At the time:

Brief notes at the time or immediately after will help you to complete the critical incident sheet (Appendix 3) when you are able. You should note:

- Date and time of disclosure/incident observed
- Place and context of disclosure/concern
- Facts you need to report

As soon as possible:

Complete a **cause for concern record sheet** which is available from the headteacher’s office. This should then be signed and passed to the designated teacher.

In the case of there being bruises or observed injuries, the Body Map (Appendix 4) which is available from the headteacher’s office should be completed and on the reverse of the cause for concern record sheet..

Remember to keep to factual information and not assumption or interpretation. Use the child's own language to quote rather than translating into your own terms. Be aware that these sheets may be used at a later date to support a referral to an external agency.

All this information must be handwritten

DESIGNATED TEACHER

The designated teacher will:

- Follow-up the referral using the Cause for concerns sheet as a basis for consideration before action
- Make additional records of discussions and any investigation that takes place
- Make a decision whether to continue to monitor the situation or take the referral further, referring to the prevention/referral route maps provided by City of York Safeguarding Board April 2007 (Appendix 6). This decision should be communicated to the individual making the referral
- Where a child is referred to social care a 'confirmation of referral form' (Appendix 7) should be completed and sent within 48 hours.

Recorded information from children's services meetings and other reports are stored in document wallets separate from the child's records in a secure cabinet in the Headteacher's office. Any documents for inclusion in these files should be given directly to the designated teacher.

ALLEGATIONS AGAINST A MEMBER OF STAFF OR VOLUNTEER

This is an extremely difficult and sensitive area to address. All allegations should be handled in accordance with the Chapter 5 of the government guidance 'Safeguarding Children and Safer Recruitment in Education' which came into force in January 2007.

The Local Authority Designated Officer (LADO) should be contacted immediately with any concern, by the designated person. If any allegations are made against the designated person, contact should be made immediately with the LADO (Joe Cocker) and the Chair of Governors informed.

The LADO is Joe Cocker and can be contacted on 01904 555695 or joe.cocker@york.gov.uk

INTER-AGENCY LIAISON

SOCIAL CARE MEETINGS

At times school staff will be called to participate in meetings organised and chaired by children's services. These might be:

- Strategy discussion
- the child protection review conference
- Child protection conferences
- Family group conferences- for children in need, in a range of circumstances where a plan is required for the child's future welfare
- Professionals' meetings – in which representative professionals from different agencies are asked to meet to discuss children and their families with a view to providing support or making recommendations in terms of next stages of involvement
- core group meetings – meeting in which a 'core' group of professionals associated with the family are asked to meet to review the progress of actions decided at case conferences and register reviews

At these meetings, representatives from the school should be ready to report providing information about

- attendance and punctuality
- academic achievement
- the child's behaviour and attitude
- relationships with peer group and social skills generally
- child's appearance and readiness for school
- contact with parents/ carers
- any specific incidents that need reporting

Prior to the meeting, class teachers and other adults working closely with the child should be asked for their comments. Following the meeting, feedback should be given and staff brought up to date with any actions that are needed.

THE CHILD PROTECTION REGISTER CHILDREN

Children placed on the child protection register will require additional support and monitoring. The social care department will inform a school receiving a child on the register and accompanying records should follow from the child's previous school.

CONFIDENTIALITY

Where children are on the child protection register and leave one school for another, the designated teacher must inform the receiving school and the key worker at the social care department. If the child leaves the school with no receiving school, details should be passed to the Principal Education Social Worker.

Education staff have a professional responsibility to share relevant information about the protection of children with the investigative agencies. Members of staff should not promise confidentiality but can let the child know that only those who need to know will be informed and that that will be for the child's own sake.

Time should be taken to reassure the child and confirm that information given will be treated sensitively. Reassurance should be given and the adult involved should listen sympathetically and non-judgementally.

Staff should be careful and ensure that information is only given to the appropriate person. When a concern or worry is raised, not everyone needs to know about it. This respects the child's, family's and/or staff's rights to privacy. Otherwise there might be gossip and rumours or other people may be genuinely concerned. It is acceptable to say that a concern has been raised and it is being dealt with following the school's procedures. All staff should be kept aware of issues relating to confidentiality and the status of information they may hold.

Members of staff, other than the designated member and those involved closely, should only have enough details in order to help them to act sensitively and appropriately to a pupil. Sensitive information regarding pastoral issues and for children on the child protection register is kept separately in a folder in a secure cabinet.

Discretion should be used when talking about the personal, and changing circumstances of children e.g. when a child goes into care. Care is particularly necessary after attending child protection meetings. Information received should be treated sensitively and discretion will be needed as issues emerge on a formal and informal basis.

Where children leave Fishergate Primary school for another setting, including secondary provision relevant information will be shared to ensure appropriate support for both the child and family can be provided.

SUPPORTING CHILDREN AT RISK

For children at risk, school may be the one stable place from which they can expect security and reassurance. It is not only being alert to potential abuse but providing support to help children through difficult times, providing them with the coping skills that can help avoid situations arising and deal with emotional difficulties afterwards if they do.

THE PASTORAL SUPPORT PROGRAMME

Children who are 'looked after' should have their own pastoral support programme which will be drawn up in discussion with Children's Services, the class teacher, foster parents and the child themselves.

SUPPORT IN SCHOOL – PASTORAL CARE

All class teachers and key stage leaders are responsible, in conjunction with other school staff, for the pastoral needs of the children in their care. This includes maintaining opportunity for the children to share their concerns and following the guidance in this document.

Our curriculum includes 'circle time' during which children may be presented with issues included in our PHSCE curriculum, SEAL programme and assembly themes. In addition, circle time can be used to raise issues spontaneously that are particularly relevant to the class at that time.

Care should always be taken in regard to the discussion of sensitive issues and advice should be sought where there are concerns. The PHSCE co-ordinator has available a variety of resources to support circle time and the discussion of issues.

SUPPORT IN SCHOOL – THE CURRICULUM

Within our curriculum there will also be opportunities to discuss issues which some children might find sensitive and disturbing. Care should be taken particularly in relation to discussion about families and their make-up.

Assumptions about member of families and the presence of both parents should be avoided both in discussion and the presentation of materials.

During health and safety discussion and sex education, staff should be alert to the fact that some children will have very different experiences and may find content 'sensitive' within their own histories. Staff should make themselves familiar with the background of the children in their care in order to avoid children becoming distressed.

PHYSICAL CONTACT WITH PUPILS

Some form of physical contact with pupils by teachers is inevitable. In some cases it is necessary for reassurance. However, all members of staff should be aware of issues related to touching and the way in which this might be misconstrued. This relates particularly to any sensitive areas of the body.

In the event of physical restraint being used it is important that only the minimum amount is used in order to prevent the pupil from causing injury to themselves, others or property. Following such an intervention the critical incident form should be completed.

The majority of staff in school have received Team Teach training in restraint. Where teachers or members of the support staff haven't attended 'Team teach' training, they should refer, if possible, to a member of staff who has.

WORKING WITH PARENTS

It is important that school has an established approach to working with parents. Parents' and children's need for privacy should be respected. Attitudes to and contact with parents should be non-judgemental in order to obtain the most conducive working relationship. The priority is the needs of the child and effective liaison is crucial for this.

It should be recognised that families from different backgrounds and cultures will have different approaches to child-rearing. These differences should be acknowledged and respected provided they do not place the child at risk as defined earlier in the document. We do have access to support from other agencies for parents where it is felt that this would be useful. E.g Home/school liaison, counselling support, Ethnic Minority and Traveller Support Service.

FURTHER SAFEGUARDING ISSUES

Safeguarding is not just about protecting children from deliberate harm. Effective safeguarding involves developing an Arena of Safety whereby safe practices are incorporated into the thinking and behaviour of everyone who works for or has contact with our school. Therefore, safeguarding should be viewed as more than a document.

At Fishergate Primary School there are a range of additional policies, practices and procedures which contribute to developing an arena of safety and promote the welfare of pupils. These are summarised below:-

A CODE OF CONDUCT FOR PUPILS, STAFF AND PARENTS

Fishergate Primary School has developed codes of conduct for pupils, staff and parents which form part of the school's behaviour policy and is part of the Home School Agreement. The pupil code of conduct is displayed in each classroom and referred to regularly by members of staff.

PUPILS' HEALTH AND SAFETY

Workplace inspections are conducted every term by the headteacher and 'premises' committee of the governing body. Potential risks to the health and safety of staff and pupils are identified and control measures put in place. Workplace instructions and risks assessments are distributed to all staff and are reviewed regularly. Electronic copies are stored on the school network and are hard copy is available in the health and safety 'risk assessment' file which is kept in the headteacher's office.

Each term there is a fire drill that practices efficient evacuation from the buildings. The school conducts an annual Fire Risk Assessment. The school also has a disaster plan that details what staff and parents should do in the case of emergencies.

SCHOOL SECURITY

Fishergate Primary School provides a secure site, but the site is only as secure as the people who use it. Therefore all people on the site have to adhere to the rules, which govern it. Laxity can cause potential problems to safeguarding. Therefore:

Access to the school premises is strictly via the main entrance between the hours of 9:00am and 3:00pm. All other gates are secured.

Visitors must only enter through the main entrance and after signing in at the office, they should be given a visitors badge on entry.

Children will only be allowed home with adults with parental responsibility or confirmed permission. Children should never be allowed to leave school alone during school hours but collected by an adult.

Should a child leave the school premises without permission then staff have been informed never to chase after a child, but rather to report immediately to the Headteacher who will immediately inform the police and then parents.

E-SAFETY/INTERNET SAFETY

Children are encouraged to use the internet as much as is possible, but at all times in a safe way. Pupils must never be left unattended whilst online and teachers should ensure that this does not happen. If teachers know of misuse, either by an adult or child, the issue should be reported to the Headteacher without delay. As Child Protection Officer the Headteacher has overall responsibility for internet safety. For more details see the school's ICT policy

APPOINTMENTS OF STAFF AND INDUCTION OF NEWLY APPOINTED STAFF AND WORK PLACEMENTS

All staff that are appointed to work at Fishergate Primary School are recruited in accordance with the statutory guidance Keeping Children safe in Education (April 2014) and 'Safeguarding Children and Safer Recruitment in Education' which came into force in January 2007 The 'Recruitment and Selection Checklist' contained in this document is used to ensure the full range of checks are carried out so as to minimize the possibility of children suffering harm from those whom they consider to be in positions of trust (Appendix 8). All staff that have been recruited since March 2002 have been subject to an enhanced CRB check. This search highlights people who have a criminal record or if previous allegations have been made against them. If staff are found to have a criminal record the appointment is reconsidered by the Headteacher and the Governing Body. The LA is informed directly by the Criminal Records Bureau. The Headteacher sits on all appointment panels where the candidates are external applicants. The Headteacher, School Business Manager and Chair of Governors Staffing Committee have undertaken the LA training on Safer Recruitment. New members of staff are inducted into safeguarding practices.

INDUCTION OF VOLUNTEERS

Volunteers must also have Criminal Records Bureau clearance and a full DBS search will be conducted. The School Administration team organises this. Visitors who do not yet have clearance will under no circumstance be left alone with a child or group of children.

WELCOMING VISITORS

It is assumed that visitors with a professional role i.e. all LA officers, the School Nurse or members of the police already have relevant clearance but the office will endeavour to check this before admittance is granted and a note made of anyone entering without clearance.

ATTENDANCE AT SCHOOL

Excellent attendance is expected of all children, but when children are unwell parents are expected to confirm absence by telephone before the close of register by 10.00a.m. If there is no notification the school has a policy of phoning home to ascertain each child's whereabouts. The school works closely with the Authority's Welfare officer whenever a child's attendance and punctuality causes concern. Attendance rates are reported each term to the LA, annually to the government and to all parents. Positive measures are in place to encourage children to attend regularly and punctually and the school is

aware of its right to take legal action against parents who do not ensure good attendance and punctuality.

Some pupils absence, whether single days, part of a pattern or persistent, is an indicator of wider needs and will be addressed as part of the work to secure good attendance. Staff in school are alerted to this possibility and try to identify and address the underlying causes of pupils absence. Where appropriate, staff will refer pupils to the Headteacher and other agencies.

RACE EQUALITY

We want our children to be prepared for an ethnically diverse society. The school will work hard to promote racial equality and harmony by preventing and challenging racism. If anyone ever feels unjustly treated then the school welcomes and values a response. Racism is tackled in both the RE and in the PSHCE curriculum. The children take part in discussions designed to raise awareness and address prejudices. From time to time visitors work with the children also.

All racist incidents are reported to the Local Authority immediately and the Governing Body on a termly basis.

PROVIDING FIRST AID

In school there are always trained members of staff who volunteer to oversee first aid. The school has a dedicated first aid room where first aid supplies are stored. When a child has suffered an accident in school or on the playground there is a protocol for staff to follow:

- A trained first aider is consulted
- A series of checks are conducted for children with a bumped head. The outcomes are recorded on a specific form which is kept in the first aid room.
- The incident is logged on an accident report form.
- A copy of the accident report form is sent home and 'out of school' club is notified if appropriate.
- If there is any doubt at all a parent is contacted and asked if they would like to review their child.

When a child is poorly, they are sent to the school's designated teaching assistant for first aid (Ann Cole or Liz Pitts). They make an assessment of the child and decide on what action to take.

MANAGING MEDICINES IN SCHOOL POLICY

School policy is that members of staff will only give medicines when the parent has completed and signed the appropriate form requesting that staff administer medicine; the decision to meet the request is at the discretion of the Headteacher. For the majority of medicines, however, a dose before and after school is perfectly adequate. Naturally the parents should consult doctors before giving any form of medication.

For further details, read the Managing medicines in school policy

INTIMATE CARE

For matters of an intimate nature staff are informed to deal with a child with utmost sensitivity and always to seek guidance from the Headteacher or Deputy Head. In almost all situations the parents will be asked to come into school immediately so that they are part of the decision making process for such matters.

MEETING THE NEEDS OF PUPILS WITH MEDICAL CONDITIONS

Most pupils with medical conditions don't need to take their medicine or treatment during the school day. For pupils that do, procedures are outlined in the Managing Medicines at School policy. For some conditions, a health care plan may need to be drawn up. The school liaises closely with the school health team / medical professionals on such matters.

DRUG AND SUBSTANCE MISUSE

We aim to equip children with the knowledge, understanding and skills that enable them to make the sort of choices that lead to a healthy lifestyle. Our drugs education programme of teaching children through curriculum opportunities in science and PSHCE has the primary objective of helping children to become more confident and responsible young people through teaching them to be aware of the dangers of the misuse of drugs. We aim to equip them with the social skills that enable them to make informed moral and social decisions in relation to drugs in society. Children also partake in a drugs awareness drama workshop called 'It's Up To You'.

For further details, see the school Drugs Policy.

THE DESIGN OF THE CURRICULUM

The curriculum deals with safeguarding in two ways. Firstly, the curriculum, in subjects such as Personal, Social and Health Education discusses relevant issues with the children. Topics include such themes as Drugs, Sex and Relationships and Stranger Danger. Children are encouraged to explore and discuss these issues. Secondly, the curriculum is designed so that safety issues within the subject are discussed and safe practices taught, such as using equipment properly in PE and Design and Technology and Internet Safety in ICT. At all times there has to be appropriate staffing levels and when the curriculum is taken out of school appropriate and agreed pupil/adult ratios are maintained. Visiting speakers, with correct clearance are always welcome into school so that can give specialist knowledge to the children.

EDUCATIONAL VISITS

Experiences gained by pupils through off-site educational opportunities are a vital part of the progression of a pupil's education. They are seen as an integral part of the School's ability to provide a broad and balanced curriculum, offering opportunities to increase independence and social skills, working together, living together (particularly in residential situations, environmental awareness and as a base for creative and interesting subject curriculum work).

The School adheres to the City of York Guidelines for Educational Visits.

The lead adult always assesses visits as to the level of risk and all trips are finally authorised by the Headteacher and the Local Authority, where appropriate, using Evolve.

TAKING IMAGES AND VIDEO OF CHILDREN

There has been a lot of controversy about adults photographing and filming young people. The concerns are genuine, however we have taken a sensible, balanced approach, which allows parents to photograph and film their own children providing they follow certain guidelines:

- Parent/guardians consent to school taking photographs by signing a permission slip. School photographs that are for use outside of school are anonymous unless specific permission has been received from parents.
- Parents/Guardians are allowed to video school performances and key events **for personal use only** and must not be posted to social media sites without the permission of the parents of any other children in the images/videos.

- Parents will be asked to sign a declaration that they will only upload photos of their own child(ren) and under no circumstances will any photos of other children be published on any social network sites like Facebook, Twitter. If there is a breach in this policy by any parent or carer then permission for taking any photographs within school will be withdrawn permanently.

WHISTLEBLOWING

If members of staff ever have any concerns about the behaviour or intentions of any person within the building, school grounds or within proximity of children, they have a professional duty to inform the management accordingly. This can be done in writing or verbally but staff should be prepared to discuss issues in the confidence that any such matter will be dealt with sensitively and with the necessary degree of confidentiality. The school has a Whistleblowing Policy.

Review and monitoring of the policy

This policy will be reviewed on an annual basis or earlier if legislation should change

Further Information

More detailed information is available on the City of York Safeguarding Children Board website www.saferchildrenyork.org.uk

Date: October 2015

Reviewed : October 2016