Leigh Primary School

Parent Guide to Child Protection Policy

This policy reflects the values and core principles of Leigh Primary School in relation to safeguarding. At Leigh Primary School we are concerned that all pupils remain safe and free from harm. We are all committed to playing a full and active part in the multi-agency response to child protection concerns which are always followed without exception. Additionally, the school has a legal duty to safeguard and promote the welfare of children and to have a child protection policy. Through their day to day contact with pupils, and direct work with families, school staff have a crucial role to play in noticing indicators of possible abuse or neglect. Parents should be aware therefore that the school is required, as part of the local child protection procedures, to report their concerns to Social Care immediately where it appears to a member of staff that a child may have been harmed or is at risk of harm. To avoid any misunderstandings, parents of children who sustain accidental injuries, which result in cuts/bruises/fractures, should inform the school without delay.

Principles

Children have a right to be safe, to be heard, valued and respected. Parents have a right to be informed of any concerns regarding their child as long as it is deemed safe to do so. Children are best protected when parents and school can work together as a team. All staff, governors and volunteers are given appropriate training and support. All staff and governors are subject to rigorous recruitment checks. Principles in Practice In order to ensure children are effectively protected we ensure that:

- We have a Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL) Mrs Halfhide, Mrs Short and Deputy Designated Safeguarding Persons, Mrs Shobbrook and Mrs Hawken all with responsibility for safeguarding and child protection.
- All relevant safeguarding training is undertaken and updated regularly including to all school staff on inset days.
- Termly safeguarding meetings are held between the safeguarding team and DSLs meet weekly and more if required.
- A child friendly safeguarding policy is on display in all classrooms. The safeguarding policy is accessible on the school website. The safeguarding policy is reviewed and ratified by the governing body annually. The governors oversee all matters relating to safeguarding policy and practice in school. There is a governor dedicated solely to safeguarding.

Prevention

School will take positive action to prevent children suffering abuse and neglect through the development of an open culture that informs children of their rights (UNICEF UN Convention on the Rights of the child) and encourages them to speak about any concerns. The school will also address the issue of children's safety through the curriculum, focus weeks and in assemblies.

Responding to concerns

School will refer all allegations or concerns where a child has been, or is likely to be, abused or neglected to Social Care within the Children's Services Department. School will consult with other agencies when it has concerns that a child may have been abused or neglected. School will discuss with parents any concerns they have about children where appropriate. Parents will be kept informed of what has happened.

Child on child abuse

Physical and emotional abuse of children by other children will be dealt with through the school's behaviour policy which included bullying (available on the school website). Parents will be kept informed. All concerns about possible sexual abuse will be referred to Social Care.

Child Protection Conferences

Leigh Primary School will attend conferences and provide information about children and families. This information will be shared with parents beforehand. School will keep confidential child protection records separately from a pupil's academic and other school records.

Confidentiality

Information from parents about possible child abuse cannot be kept confidential. Information and records about children on the Child Protection Register will be given only to those people who need it and will be kept strictly confidential by them. A full copy of the schools safeguarding policy is available on the school website.