

William Torbitt Primary School

Safeguarding statements and Procedures 2020-21

This statement **needs** to be read alongside the William Torbitt Primary School Safeguarding September 2020.

INTRODUCTION

Safeguarding is defined as protecting children from maltreatment, preventing impairment of mental and health and/or development, ensuring that children grow up in the provision of safe and effective care and taking action to enable all children to have the best outcomes.

For William Torbitt Primary School the mental and physical health, safety and well-being of your child is our top priority. All staff, governors and volunteers share this commitment to safeguarding your pupils. The school is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare and safety of all students and expects all staff and volunteers to share this commitment. We strive to ensure that consistent and effective safeguarding procedures are in place to support families, students and staff at school.

We are a '**listening**' and '**telling**' school. Children are given ample opportunity to disclose any worries they may have and adults take seriously what they tell us. All school staff are trained in Safeguarding and children are made aware of the adults they can talk to if they have any concerns. Staff are trained to look out for signs of physical harm, emotional harm, sexual harm or neglect and are required to report these to the Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL) which is Sarah Fordham. Serious case reviews nationally have demonstrated real failings which have resulted in serious injury including death to a child, due to the lack of vigilance of agencies and children not sharing. We know as partners with the school that you fully support the school for being recognised as having exemplary practice for safeguarding to keep your child safe.

The use of technology has become a significant component of many safeguarding issues. Child criminal exploitation, child sexual exploitation; radicalisation; sexual predation-technology often provides the platform that facilitates the harm. Pupils have ever increasing access to communication technology both in and out of school. It is essential that children are safeguarded from potential harm and inappropriate online material. At William Torbitt Primary School children are taught about safeguarding, including online safety, through teaching and learning opportunities, as part of providing a broad and balanced curriculum. This may include covering relevant issues through personal, social, health and economic (PSHE), computing and relationship and sex education (RSE).

The procedures which we follow have been laid down by the LB of Redbridge and the school has adopted a Safeguarding and Child Protection Policy in line with this, for the safety of all. On occasions our concern about a child may mean that we have to consult other agencies. Following a report from a member of staff or volunteer, the DSL will consider the level of need by applying the thresholds for referral which Redbridge Local Safeguarding Children Board (LSCB) has agreed for use by all agencies and professionals who are worried or concerned about a child's safety or welfare.

Where unclear a phone call to seek advice will be made to the Multi Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH) team who will advise accordingly.

When staff have a concern about an individual child that requires a referral to children's social care, parents should be informed prior to referral, unless it is considered to do so might place the child at increased risk of significant harm by:

- the behavioural response it prompts e.g. a child being subjected to abuse, maltreatment or threats/forced to remain silent if alleged abuses informed;
- leading to an unreasonable delay;
- leading to the loss of evidential material;
- placing a member of staff from any agency at risk.

We will ensure that all concerns are discussed with parent/carers first, before any referrals are made, **unless we believe that such a move may be contrary to a child's welfare or we have been advised not to do so by the MASH team of the relevant local authority or the police.**

The Data Protection Act 2018 and the GDPR **do not prevent, or limit, the sharing of information for the purposes of keeping children safe.** Fears about sharing information cannot be allowed to stand in the way of the need to promote the welfare and protect the safety of children. The safety and welfare of the child is paramount and must over-ride **all** other considerations.

Staffs have professional responsibility to share relevant information about the protection of children with other professionals, particularly investigative agencies. If a child or young person confides in a member of staff and requests that the information remains "secret", it is important that the member of staff tells the child/young person sensitively that s/he has a responsibility to refer cases of alleged abuse to the appropriate agencies in order that they and potentially other children may be safeguarded. The child/young person should, however, be assured that the matter will be disclosed only to people who "**need to know**" about it. Staffs that receive information about children and their families should share that information **only** within appropriate professional contexts.

Mission statements (see full policy)

In delivering our safeguarding duties, we will:

- provide a caring, positive, safe and stimulating environment that promotes the social, physical and moral development of the individual child;
- identify concerns early and prevent concerns from escalating;
- **establish and maintain an culture where children feel respected, secure, are encouraged to talk and are listened to when they have a worry or concern;**
- establish and maintain an environment where school staff and volunteers feel well informed about safeguarding and child protection and are listened to when they have concerns about the safety and wellbeing of a child;
- **ensure children know that there are adults in school whom they can approach if worried;**
- ensure that children who have unmet needs are supported appropriately. This could include a referral to early help services or specialist services if they are a child in need or have been or are at risk of being abused and neglected;

- where there is a safeguarding concern, take the child's wishes and feelings into account when determining what action to take and what services to provide and ensure that there are systems in place for children to express their views and give feedback;
- when concerned about the welfare of a child, always act in the best interests of the child;
- **work with parents to build an understanding of the school's responsibilities for the welfare of all children, including the need for referrals to other agencies in some situations;**
- include opportunities across the curriculum, including within Personal social health education (PSHE) and Information technology (IT), for children to be taught about safeguarding and to develop the skills they need to recognise danger, protect themselves from risks and stay safe from abuse; maintain an attitude of **"it could happen here"** where safeguarding is concerned.
- ensure that staff feel able to raise concerns about poor or unsafe practice and potential failures in the school's safeguarding procedures and are familiar with the appropriate whistleblowing procedures
- **maintain a culture of continuous improvement with regard to safeguarding and child protection arrangements.**

If you have any serious concerns about your child, another student or a member of staff at School please do not hesitate to contact the Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL) who will be able to provide you with the best advice and help using the appropriate degree of confidentiality.