

Beech Lodge School

Safeguarding Policy

PURPOSE

The purpose of Beech Lodge School's Safeguarding Policy is to ensure every child who is a registered pupil at our school is safe and protected from harm. This policy will give clear direction to staff, volunteers, visitors and parents about the expected behaviour and our legal responsibility to safeguard and promote the welfare of all children at our school.

INTRODUCTION

Our school fully recognises the contribution it can make to protect children from harm and supporting and promoting the welfare of all children who are registered pupils at our school. The elements of our policy are prevention, protection and support. Our policy applies to all pupils, staff, parents, proprietor, advisors, volunteers and visitors.

PROCEDURES

When new staff, volunteers or regular visitors join our school they will be informed of the safeguarding arrangements in place. They will be given a copy of our school's safeguarding policy and told who our Senior Designated teacher for Safeguarding is. Every new member of staff must read the Safeguarding policy so that they are aware of their responsibility to safeguard all children at our school and the remit of the role of the Senior Designated Professional.

New staff who have not had any child protection training or staff who have had training more than three years ago will receive Level 1 training.

When new pupils join our school, all parents and carers will be informed that we have a safeguarding policy. This will be offered to parents should they request a copy. The policy will also appear on our website. Parents and carers will be informed of our legal duty to assist our colleagues in other agencies with child protection enquiries and what happens should we have cause to make a referral to Social Services.

TRAINING

Every member of staff will undertake appropriate safeguarding training every three years. The senior designated professional, the alternate designated member of staff and any other senior member of staff who may be in a position of making referrals or attending child protection conferences or core groups will attend Level 3 Safeguarding Training. This training will be formally updated every two years with certificated training and informally through a refresher session at the start of each academic term.

Our Proprietor will also undertake appropriate training to ensure she is able to carry out her duty to safeguard all of the children at our school. We will do this in a number of ways. The Proprietor may attend updated training with other named proprietors/governors in our area, she will also be encouraged to attend the Safeguarding Children in Education training with our senior designated professional

We actively encourage all of our staff to keep up to date with the most recent local and national safeguarding advice and guidance.

Staff can find the most up to date national safeguarding information on www.teachernet.com The Head teacher and the Senior Designated Person should be used as a first point of contact for concerns and queries regarding any safeguarding concern in our school.

CHILD PROTECTION CONFERENCES

From time to time staff members may be asked to attend a child protection conference on behalf of the school in respect of individual children. Usually the person attending from school will be the Headteacher or Senior Designated Person. In any case, the person attending will need to have as much relevant up to date information about the child as possible. This is more likely to be available from a class teacher, form tutor or subject teacher. A child protection conference will be convened if a referral has been made and following an investigation the findings have considered the child to be at risk of harm, or if the child is already subject to a child protection plan a review conference is held to monitor the safety of the child and the required reduction in risk.

Staff may be required to attend child protection conferences or core group meetings to represent the school. The Headteacher in her role of Child Protection Officer will brief staff in order that they are properly equipped for the conference. All reports for child protection conference will be prepared in advance using the Education Report to Child Protection Conference form. The information contained in the report will be shared with parents either at the conference or before and will include information relating to the child's physical, emotional and intellectual development.

Clearly child protection conferences can be upsetting for parents. We recognise that we are likely to have more contact with parents than other professionals involved. We will work in an open and honest way with any parent whose child has been referred to Children's Services or whose child is subject to a child protection plan. Our responsibility is to promote the protection and welfare of all children and our aim is to achieve this in partnership with our parents.

SAFE STAFF

All adults who come into contact with our children have a duty of care to safeguard and promote their welfare. There is a legal duty placed upon us to ensure that all adults who work with or on behalf of our children are competent, confident and safe to do so.

Our aim is to provide a safe and supportive environment which secures the well being and very best outcomes for our children. We do recognise that sometimes the behaviour of adults may lead to an allegation of abuse being made. Allegations sometimes arise from a differing understanding of the same event, but when they occur they are distressing and difficult for all concerned. We also recognise that that many allegations are genuine and there are some adults who deliberately seek to harm or abuse children. We will take all possible steps to safeguard our children and to ensure that the adults in our school are safe to work with our children. We will always ensure that the RBWM Local Authority Procedures for managing allegations of abuse is adhered to.

All adults who come into contact with children will be made aware of the steps that will be taken if an allegation is made. We will seek appropriate advice from our local Area Education Office. Neither the Headteacher nor any other member of school staff will investigate these matters. We will seek and work with the advice that is provided. Should an allegation be made against the Headteacher, this will be

reported to the Proprietor who will liaise with the Local Authority Designated Officer (LADO).

All staff will have access to and be expected to know our school's policy for safe restraint. There will be occasion when some form of physical contact is inevitable, for example if a child has an accident or is hurt or is in a situation of danger to themselves or others around them. However, at all times the agreed policy for safe restraint must be adhered to. A list of personnel who are currently trained in TEAM TEACH will be kept by the Headteacher. Team Teach training will be updated every three years. Staff members who join the school and who do not have a current TEAM TEACH certificate will be assisted to secure training at the earliest opportunity. If staff, visitors, volunteers or parent helpers are working with children alone they will, wherever possible, be visible to other members of staff. They will be expected to inform another member of staff of their whereabouts in school, who they are with and for how long. Doors, ideally, should have a clear glass panel in them and be left open. The school ensures that current CRB/DBSs are in place for adults working with children.

There are sensible steps that every adult should take in their daily professional conduct with children. This can be found in the Investigation, Referral and Support Coordinator guidance for Safe Working Practice for the Protection of Children and Staff in Education Settings. (www.teachernet.com)

OUR ETHOS

Our school will establish and maintain an ethos where our pupils feel secure, are encouraged to talk and are listened to. Children at our school will be able to talk freely to any member of staff or regular visitor to our school if they are worried or concerned about something.

All staff and regular visitors will, either through training or induction, know how to recognise a disclosure from a child and will know how to manage this. We will not make promises to any child and we will not keep secrets. Every child will know what their chosen adult will have to do with whatever they have been told.

Beech Lodge School will endeavour to provide activities and opportunities in the PHSE curriculum that will equip our children with the skills they need to stay safe. This will also be extended to include material that will encourage our children to develop essential life skills. At all times we will work in partnership and endeavour to establish effective working relationships with parents, carers and colleagues from other agencies.

RECORDS AND MONITORING

If we are concerned about the welfare or safety of any child all adults in school will record their concern on the agreed report form and give this to the senior designated person. Any information recorded will be kept in a separate named file, in a secure locked cabinet and not with the child's academic file. These files will be the responsibility of the Senior Designated Person and information will only be shared within school on a need to know basis for the protection of the child.

Any safeguarding information will be kept in the file and will be added to. Copies of referrals, invitations to child protection conferences, core groups and reports will be stored here. All our safeguarding files will have a chronology and contents front cover.

Reports of a concern to the Senior Designated Person must be made in writing and signed and dated by the person with the concern. If a child leaves our school we will ensure that our Senior Designated Person makes contact with the senior

designated person at the following school and the file will be forwarded. We will use the safeguarding information sheet to ensure the receiving school has the most relevant and up to date information about the child.

Malicious allegations made by children will not be recorded on teacher files.

ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

At Beech Lodge School the Headteacher is the Senior Designated Person. In the Headteacher's absence, the Proprietor deputises. Through appropriate training, knowledge and experience our Senior Designated Person will liaise with Children's Services and other agencies where necessary, and make referrals to Children's Services.

Any concern for a child's safety or welfare will be recorded in writing and given to the Senior Designated Person. The Senior Designated Person at Beech Lodge School will represent our school at child protection conferences and core group meetings and will be responsible for ensuring that all staff members and volunteers are aware of our policy and the procedure they need to follow.

The Senior Designated Person will ensure that all staff, volunteers and regular visitors have received appropriate child protection information during induction and have access to CP1 training. Where appropriate the Senior Designated Person will also ensure level two joint agency training is applied for and attended by staff who are required to attend.

The Proprietor of Beech Lodge School will ensure that our safeguarding policy is in place and is reviewed annually. This policy will be referred to on our school website. The content of our policy has been written following consultation with the Local Authority and the requirements of the Safeguarding Children's Board Policies and Procedures.

The Proprietor will receive a safeguarding report that will record training that has taken place, the number of staff attending and any outstanding training requirements for the school.

At all times the Headteacher and the Proprietor will ensure that safe recruitment practices are followed. We will ensure that our Head teacher and Proprietor has completed appropriate safer recruitment training and is accredited by the National College of School Leadership. At Beech Lodge School we require evidence of original academic certificates. We do not accept testimonials and recognise the importance of taking up references prior to interview. We will question the contents of application forms if we are unclear about them; we will undertake enhanced Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) checks and use any other means of ensuring we are recruiting and selecting the most suitable people to work with our children. We will use the recruitment and selection process to deter and reject unsuitable candidates and will adhere to the requirements of Safeguarding Children in Education and Safer Recruitment.

SECURITY

RATIONALE

At Beech Lodge School we strive to create a secure and safe environment for the children, staff and legitimate visitors to the school. The well-documented events in the past have led to an increased awareness to the need to improve school security.

SECURITY ALARM SYSTEM

The school has an intruder alarm system .

The central control pad for these alarms is situated on the School Office wall. If the alarm sounds the Headteacher will investigate the reason for the alarm sounding. In her absence, the school assistant will investigate further.

ACCESS

Entrance to the main school building for parents and visitors should be through the front door. Staff are able to gain access through the front gates by keying in the correct code number and then by using their front door key. Parents and visitors should use the entry phone system at the front gates.

A visitor's book is kept in the school office and all visitors are issued with a 'visitors badge' before they are allowed access to the school. Parent Helpers will also be issued with a badge, which will be worn while they are in school. They will also sign the book.

If a member of staff sees an unknown person in school without a 'visitor's badge' then it is his/her responsibility to take sensible and appropriate measures to ascertain the nature of their business, without endangering personal safety, or the safety of the children.

ID BADGES

Children should be aware that workmen/women in school are issued with a visitors badge as a form of positive identification.

REPORTING UNUSUAL OCCURRENCES

All adults should be vigilant and report any unusual occurrence to the Headteacher or any other member of staff in his/her absence.