



Stowupland High School

Local Child Protection Procedures



History of Document

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1. Aim

Schools and their staff form part of the wider safeguarding system for children. Everyone who comes into contact with children and their families and carers has a role to play in keeping them safe. To fulfil this responsibility effectively, all professionals must ensure their approach is child-centred. This means that they must always consider what is in the best interests of the child.

These procedures are for all staff, parents, governors, volunteers and the wider school community. They form part of the safeguarding arrangements for our school. They should be read in conjunction with the following policies on:

Trust Policies	School Policies
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Safeguarding and Child Protection ● Safer Recruitment ● Complaints Procedure ● Whistleblowing Policy ● Health and Safety ● Combined Data Protection and FOI Policy 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Behaviour (including the anti-bullying strategy and approach to physical intervention) ● Educational Visits Policy ● Staff Code of Conduct ● SEND Policy

They should also be read in conjunction with Keeping Children Safe in Education (Department for Education, September 2018). The school DSLs and Senior Leaders will also read and work within guidance stated in Working Together To Safeguard Children July 2018. Safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children is defined in Keeping Children Safe in Education as:

- a) protecting children from maltreatment
- b) preventing impairment of children's health or development
- c) ensuring that children grow up in circumstances consistent with the provision of safe and effective care
- d) taking action to enable all children to have the best outcomes

2. Expectations

All staff and volunteers must sign to confirm they have read and agree to these procedures before they start working with us. All children and their families will be provided with these procedures before enrolment. It is important for families to be aware of actions staff may take if there are any concerns for a child's safety, and for them to understand that they might not be consulted before action is taken. Knowing about child protection procedures ahead of time helps parents to engage better in the process, meaning that change is more likely to take place.

All adults working in our school who have contact with pupils are in positions of trust. Staff and volunteers should understand their responsibilities to safeguard and promote the welfare of pupils, including through early help. This means that staff and volunteers:

- a) are responsible for their own actions and behaviour and must avoid any conduct which would lead any reasonable person to question their motivation or intentions
- b) must work, and be seen to work, in an open and transparent way
- c) must acknowledge that deliberately invented/malicious allegations are extremely rare and that all concerns should be reported and recorded
- d) must discuss and/or take advice promptly from their line manager if they have acted in a way which may give rise to concern
- e) must apply the same professional standards regardless of culture, disability, gender, language, racial origin, religious belief or sexual orientation
- f) must not consume or be under the influence of alcohol or any substance, including prescribed medication, which may affect their ability to care for children
- g) must be aware that breaches of the law and other professional guidelines could result in disciplinary action being taken against them, criminal action and/or other proceedings including barring by the Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) from working in regulated activity, or for acts of serious misconduct prohibition from teaching by the Teaching Regulation Agency (TRA).

3. Early help

Early help means providing support as soon as a problem emerges, at any point in a child's life. Providing early help is more effective in promoting the welfare of children than reacting later.

Early Help at **Stowupland High School:**

- Tutor support/Key Worker meeting time/House System/Pastoral Officers
- Supportive Report System/SPSF (Suffolk Pupil Support Framework) support
- In school Alternative Provision - supported through the school Pod and Learning Hub facilities
- MHFA (Mental Health First Aid)/Mental Health Ambassadors/PMHW (Primary Mental Health Worker)
- Common Assessment Framework (CAF) process/Working with external support services through the Family Network Meetings (FN Mtgs)
- School Friendship Clubs
- School Nurse 'drop in'/Outreach support
- Counselling and support via The Benjamin Foundation
- Behavioural modification through structured break and lunch times
- SEMH Suffolk Project funded by The National Lottery and The European Social Fund
- SENCO (Special Educational Needs Coordinator)
- County Inclusive Support Services (CISS) Surgery/Annual Package/Core provision/EP (Educational Psychologist) and AANT referral systems

- PCSO (Police Community Support Officer)
- DSL (Designated Safeguarding Lead) and DSL Alternate/s
- Suffolk Young Carers
- Attendance Officer/EWO (Education Welfare Officer)

4. What to look out for (recognising children who are experiencing or at risk of harm)

Children can be harmed in several ways; abuse can be physical, sexual, emotional or it can take the form of neglect (see Part 1 and Annex A of Keeping children safe in education (September 2018)).

Children sometimes suffer more than one type of abuse at a time.

Children as well as adults can be abusers; peer on peer abuse will never be tolerated or passed off as “banter”, “just having a laugh” or “part of growing up” (see Sexual violence and sexual harassment between children in schools and colleges <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/sexual-violence-and-sexual-harassment-between-children-in-schools-and-colleges>).

Protecting children from the risk of radicalisation is part of our wider safeguarding duties (see The prevent duty: for schools and childcare providers), and is similar in nature to protecting children from other forms of harm and abuse.

5. How to respond

If you have a concern about a child’s wellbeing, based on:

- a) something the child or their parent has told you
- b) something another child has told you
- c) something you have noticed about the child’s behaviour, health, or appearance
- d) something another professional said or did

Pass all concerns immediately to the Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL) or an Alternate DSL if they are not available.

Even if you think your concern is minor, the Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL) may have more information that, together with what you know, represents a more serious worry about a child. It is never your decision alone how to respond to concerns – but it is always your responsibility to share concerns, no matter how small.

- a) Do not investigate but decide whether you need to clarify your concerns by asking the child or parent open questions (beginning with words like who, how, why, what, where and when) and being careful not to lead them. Do not discuss your concerns with the parent(s)/carer(s) if this may increase the risk to the child.
- b) If you have heard a disclosure of abuse or are talking with a child or parent about your concerns, let them know what you will do next. For example, ‘I am worried about your bruise and I need to tell Mrs Smith so that she can help us think about how to keep you safe.’
- c) Inform the DSL immediately. If the DSL is not available, inform an Alternate DSL. If none of the designated safeguarding staff or headteacher are available, you must make the referral yourself. Details of how to do this are at the end of these procedures.
- d) As soon as possible after the event, make a written record using the referral form for safeguarding concerns (yellow form). These are available in the front office pigeon holes and in the staff room,

on the safeguarding notice board. If there was a disclosure, record the words of the child or parent rather than your interpretation. Include analysis of what you saw or heard and why it is a cause for concern.

Any member of staff is entitled to report a safeguarding concern directly to the local authority if they do not feel able to refer the matter to the DSL. Details of how to do this are at the end of these procedures.

6. Who to pass concerns on to

Names, photos and contact details for the DSL, Alternate DSL(s), Designated Teacher for Children in Care, Safeguarding Governor, Headteacher, Chair of the local governing body and relevant Trustee are provided at the beginning of these procedures. Details of how to make a referral to the local authority are at the end.

7. Safeguarding concerns about another adult in the school

Safeguarding concerns about another adult in the school must be referred to the Headteacher (or whoever is fulfilling the role in their absence), without delay. If the concerns are about the Headteacher they must be referred to the Chair of Governors. They will contact the local authority Designated Officer (LADO) within one working day in respect of all cases in which it is alleged that a person who works with children has:

- a) Behaved in a way that has harmed a child, or may have harmed a child;
- b) Possibly committed a criminal offence against or related to a child; or
- c) Behaved towards a child or children in a way that indicates they may pose a risk of harm to children.
- d) If you feel your concern has not been responded to appropriately, please contact the Trust Lead on Safeguarding (enquiries@johnmiltonacademytrust.co.uk)

8. Additional Safeguarding Points

8.1 Non-collection of children

If a child is not collected at the end of the session/day, we will:

- Telephone parents/carers using the contact details listed on the school's information system. It is a requirement for the school to have a minimum of two emergency contact numbers.
- Ask parents/carers to collect their child.
- The senior leader on duty and the Head Teacher will look after the child until the child is collected.
- Details will be recorded on Go For Schools for reference.

8.2 Missing pupils

Our procedures are designed to ensure that a missing child is found and returned to effective supervision as soon as possible. If a child goes missing, we will:

- Contact parents/carers immediately
- The DSL (or Alternate DSL if DSL is not available) and Head Teacher will carry out an urgent safeguarding risk assessment to inform next steps. The Head Teacher will authorise contact to be

made with the emergency services if the urgent risk assessment requires this. Parents/carers will be informed if emergency services are contacted

- The Head Teacher and DSL will arrange a search of the school site and grounds and make attempts for the child to be contacted via mobile phone
- Return the child to school when found and inform parents/carers (and emergency services if involved)
- If deemed appropriate and necessary to safeguarding, parents/carers will be asked to come to school to discuss and agree next steps

9. Whistleblowing

If you are concerned about poor or unsafe practice or potential failures in the school's safeguarding regime, these should be raised with the Headteacher or the Chair of the local governing body, in the first instance. Please refer to the Trust's whistleblowing policy.

The NSPCC whistleblowing helpline is available for those who do not feel able to raise concerns regarding child protection failures internally. You can call: 0800 028 0285. This line is available from 8:00 to 20:00, Monday to Friday or email: help@nspcc.org.uk.

10. Reviewing these procedures

These procedures are reviewed at least annually and approved by the local governing body. Copies of these procedures and supporting materials, such as Keeping Children Safe in Education (Department for Education, September 2018), are available in the staffroom and on the school's website. Hard copies may be requested from the school office.

11. Contact details for the local authority

To seek advice before making a referral to the local authority contact the MASH (Multi Agency Safeguarding Hub) Professional Consultation Line 03456 061499 (Monday – Thursday 9am -5pm, line closes at 4.25pm on a Friday).

To make a Multi Agency Referral to the local authority contact Customer First on 0808 800 4005, (open 24 hours a day). Members of the public and professionals can use this line.

For professionals wishing to make a referral, the Multi-Agency Referral Form (MARF), the following forms must be completed and submitted using the new secure Suffolk Children and Young People's Portal at <https://cypportal.suffolk.gov.uk> [User guides and videos are available to support you in making a referral].

Access to the the Portal is also available through:

<http://www.suffolkscsb.org.uk/working-with-children/how-to-make-a-referral/>

<https://earlyhelpportal.suffolk.gov.uk/web/portal/pages/marf#h1>

If you are concerned a child is at immediate risk of serious harm, please call **999**.