

SAFEGUARDING POLICY STATEMENT 2020-21

Including Covid 19 Safeguarding Measures

St Gabriel's CofE Primary School

This documents reflect our schools responsibility to ensure that safeguarding is at the heart of all of our activities. This policy statement:

- 1) reflects the safeguarding needs of the children/young people your school works with and
- 2) aligns with your other key safeguarding and organisational policies, procedures and standards.
- 3) [outlines schools responsibility and measures school will take during school closures \(for example during the current Covid 19 pandemic](#)

THE PURPOSE AND SCOPE OF THIS POLICY STATEMENT:

St Gabriel's CofE Primary School is committed to promoting the welfare and protection of all children and young people attending the school. The purpose of this policy statement is:

- To protect children and young people
- To provide parents, staff and volunteers with the overarching principles that guide our approach to child protection.

This policy statement applies to anyone working on behalf of St Gabriel's CofE Primary School, including senior managers, the Governing Body, paid staff, volunteers, sessional workers, agency staff and students.

LEGAL FRAMEWORK:

This policy has been drawn up on the basis of legislation, policy and guidance that seeks to protect children in England.

The [Children Act 1989](#) provides the legislative framework for child protection in England. Key principles established by the Act include:

- ✚ The paramount nature of the child's welfare
- ✚ The expectations and requirements around duties of care to children

This is further strengthened by the [Children Act 2004](#), which encourages partnerships between agencies and creates more accountability, by:

- ✚ Placing a duty on local authorities to appoint children's services members who are ultimately accountable for the delivery of services
- ✚ Placing a duty on local authorities and their partners to co-operate in safeguarding and promoting the wellbeing of children and young people
- ✚ **Department for Education Statutory Guidance [Keeping Children Safe In Education September 2020](#)**
- ✚ General Data Protection Regulation May 2018

WE BELIEVE THAT:

- Children and young people should never experience abuse of any kind
- We have a responsibility to promote the welfare of all children and young people, to keep them safe and to practice in a way that protects them

WE RECOGNISE THAT:

- The welfare of the child is paramount. All children, regardless of age, disability, gender reassignment, race, religion or belief/s, sex, or sexual orientation have a right to equal protection from all types of harm or abuse
- Some children are additionally vulnerable because of the impact of previous experiences, their level of dependency, communication needs or any other special education needs
- Working in partnership with children, young people, their parents, carers and other agencies is essential in promoting the welfare of children and young people

WE WILL SEEK TO KEEP CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE SAFE BY:

- Valuing, listening to and respecting them
- Appointing a nominated Designated Safeguarding Lead, a Deputy Designated Safeguarding Lead and a Designated Lead Governor for safeguarding
- Developing child protection and safeguarding policies and procedures which reflect best practice
- Using our safeguarding procedures to share concerns and relevant information with agencies who need to know, and involving children, young people, parents, families and carers appropriately
- Creating and maintaining an anti-bullying environment and ensuring that we have a policy and procedure to help us deal effectively with any bullying that does arise
- Developing and implementing an effective online safety policy and related procedures
- Sharing information about child protection and safeguarding best practice with children, their families, staff and volunteers via leaflets, posters, group work and one-to-one discussions
- Recruiting staff and volunteers safely, ensuring all necessary checks are made
- Providing effective management for staff and volunteers through supervision, support, training and quality assurance measures
- Implementing a code of conduct for staff and volunteers
- Using our procedures to manage any allegations against staff and volunteers appropriately
- Ensuring that we have effective complaints and whistleblowing measures in place
- Ensuring that we provide a safe physical environment for our children, young people, staff and volunteers, by applying health and safety measures in accordance with the law and regulatory guidance
- Recording and storing information professionally and securely

RELATED POLICIES AND PROCEDURES:

This policy statement should be read alongside our organisational policies and procedures, including:

- Procedures for responding to concerns about a child or young person's wellbeing
- Dealing with allegations of abuse against a child or young person
- Recording and information sharing
- Role of the designated safeguarding officer
- Managing allegations against staff and volunteers
- Safer recruitment policy and procedures
- Adult to child supervision ratios
- Code of conduct for staff and volunteers
- Health and Safety
- Training, supervision and support
- Anti-bullying policy and procedures
- Online safety policy and procedures for responding to concerns about online abuse
- Photography and image sharing guidance
- Child protection records retention and storage policy
- Whistleblowing policy

SAFEGUARDING DURING ENFORCED SCHOOL CLOSURE

During the Covid 19 Pandemic individual classes or the whole school may have to close. We have systems in place to ensure that our children stay safe:

- Remote learning will be monitored daily and families contacted if children are not engaging and not attending remote live registrations.
- If children do not attend live remote video registrations, parents will be asked to phone school to register their child.
- Parents and children will be signposted to E-Safety guidance.
- For extended closures welfare/keeping in touch calls will be made to all families every two weeks regardless of whether they are classed as vulnerable
- We will ensure that we have daily contact with our most vulnerable families. If our most vulnerable children do not attend registration (via video or by phoning school) school will contact them
- If we do not have visual or phone call contact with a family for several days, further advice may be sought from children services
- Vulnerable children, will be provided with face to face learning in school - defined by the DfE coronavirus guidance for schools colleges, as being those who:
 - are assessed as being in need under section 17 of the Children Act 1989, including children and young people who have a child in need plan, a child protection plan or who are a looked-after child
 - have an education, health and care (EHC) plan
 - have been identified as otherwise vulnerable by educational providers or local authorities (including children's social care services), and who could therefore benefit from continued full-time attendance, this might include:
 - children and young people on the edge of receiving support from children's social care services
 - adopted children, those at risk of becoming NEET ('not in employment, education or training')
 - those living in temporary accommodation, those who are young carers
 - those who may have difficulty engaging with remote education at home (for example due to a lack of devices or quiet space to study)
 - others at the provider and local authority's discretion
- Vulnerable children are expected to attend full-time on-site provision where it is appropriate for them to do so. This is a priority for our school. The school will work closely with children's services to ensure our most vulnerable children remain safe. If a parent/carer does not want their child to attend school, we will:
 - work together with the local authority and social worker (where applicable) to follow up with the parent or carer to explore the reason for absence, discussing their concerns and exploring whether any adjustments could be made to encourage attendance, considering the child's circumstances and their best interests

- work together with the local authority and social worker (where applicable) and other relevant partners to encourage the child to attend educational provision, particularly where the social worker agrees that the child's attendance would be appropriate.
- Encourage the child to attend daily 'virtual registrations'
- Make weekly phone calls to more vulnerable families
- A DSL will always be on site or will be easily contactable

CONTACT DETAILS:

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Designated Safeguarding Lead Governor(s)

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We are committed to reviewing our policy and good practice **annually**.

This policy was last reviewed on: December 2020

Signed:/.....
 [this should be signed by the Headteacher and Chair of Governors]

Date: