

SAFEGUARDING AND CHILD PROTECTION POLICY



PURPOSE:

How our school ensures the safety and well-being of all pupils, particularly those who may be vulnerable due to their needs.



KEY PRINCIPLES:

- 1. Child Welfare:** The safety of children is our top priority. We aim to protect them from abuse, neglect, and exploitation.
- 2. Inclusive Approach:** All staff, including volunteers and contractors, are responsible for safeguarding. Everyone plays a role in creating a safe environment.

WHAT IS ABUSE?

Physical Abuse:

Hitting, shaking, or causing physical harm.

Emotional Abuse:

Persistent criticism, threats, or rejection

Sexual Abuse:

Inappropriate touching or exploitation

Neglect:

Failing to provide necessary care or support

SAFEGUARDING RESPONSIBILITIES



SAFE ENVIRONMENTS



Positive Culture:

We promote a supportive atmosphere where children feel safe to express their concerns.

Preventative Education:

Students receive education on healthy relationships and online safety to help them recognise risks.

Rigorous Checks:

All staff undergo thorough background checks to ensure they are suitable to work with children.

Regular Training:

All staff receive regular safeguarding training and updates.

WORKING WITH FAMILIES



SAFER RECRUITMENT AND TRAINING



Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL): A senior staff member is responsible for coordinating safeguarding efforts and ensuring all staff are trained.

Reporting Concerns: Staff must report any concerns about a child's welfare immediately to the DSL.

Open Communication: We encourage families to discuss any concerns regarding their child's safety or well-being.

Information Sharing: Families will be informed about safeguarding policies and how to report concerns immediately to the DSL.

SAFEGUARDING AT ASHGATE



At Ashgate Croft School we are committed to the safety and wellbeing of all our pupils. We will do everything we can to ensure our pupils are safeguarded and protected from harm.

“ Every child has the right to be safe from harm and danger. Safeguarding and keeping our pupils safe is **EVERYONE'S** responsibility ”

IF YOU HAVE ANY CONCERNS ABOUT A PUPIL PLEASE TALK TO OUR DESIGNATED SAFEGUARDING STAFF:



Jenny Dodds



Cath Henderson



Dawn Leader



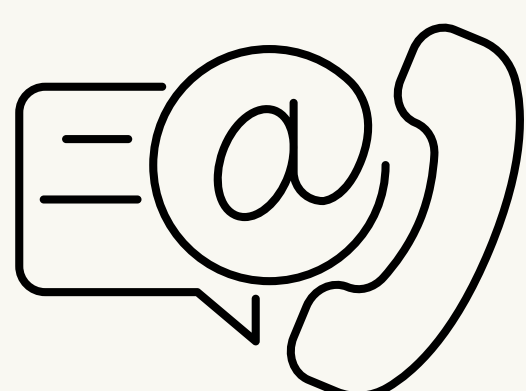
Neil Amos



Chris Dodds



Georgia Middlebrook



CONTACT US HERE:

ACSSAFEGUARDING@LEARNERSTRUST.ORG

Concerns

Staff prioritise the safety and care of all pupils; they are vigilant to signs of abuse and changes in behaviour.

Staff report all concerns immediately to DSLs, these may include:

- bruising and marks
- disclosures
- changes in behaviour
- signs of neglect (unwashed clothes, body odour, changes in appetite)
- responding to information from others (e.g. family, transport)
- medical needs not being met

DSLs are trained to assess each concern and decide on actions to be taken

Why Would We Make a Referral to Social Care (Child/Adult services)?

Duty to Refer: All schools are required to refer cases of suspected abuse to Social Care.

Referrals are made if:

- An unusual or unexplained injury or mark is seen.
- something worrying is said.
- Someone reports something concerning a child/young person has said.
- behaviour is particularly out of the ordinary/sudden unexplained change
- signs of neglect are observed

Support from Social Care: *Social Care can help children/young people and families even if abuse is not evident but there are concerns. They provide additional support when needed.*

Role of Schools:

- Schools must assist Social Care with their assessments.
- Schools are not allowed to conduct investigations themselves.
- Investigations are carried out by social workers and/or police officers.

What Will Happen Next?

Referral Review:

An experienced social work manager reviews the referral information.

Other agencies (e.g., school nurse, GP, health visitor) may assist.

Assessment: An assessment is conducted to determine the next steps.

Child Protection Conference: If the assessment indicates a likelihood of child abuse, a child protection conference is held. You will be invited to this meeting. *(if concern is about a child)*

Outcome: If no evidence of abuse is found, you will be informed.

Social Care may still offer support or refer you to other agencies for assistance.

You may feel angry, upset or worried because we have made a referral. Please try to understand that every member of staff has a responsibility to act in the best interests of all of our children all of the time and are not allowed to take any risks if a child's safety is of concern.