



## **Safeguarding Our Children – An overview for Parents/Carers**

### **Introduction**

As part of our commitment to keeping your children safe, we thought it would be helpful for you to understand a bit more about how we operate and what you can expect from us.

### **Suitability to Work With Children**

All staff, supply teachers, students and regular volunteers have to hold a current clear DBS certificate. This replaced the old CRB check. We also insist that workers on our site such as tradesmen, technicians, builders etc hold this as they will be working here when children are present.

We re-check all DBS certificates regularly. We do not have to do this, but we feel it is good practice.

All staff, whether teachers or not, are checked against the registers of those prohibited from teaching.

One-off or occasional volunteers are DBS checked where possible, but, on the very rare occasions where they are not, measures are put into place to ensure they are never working alone with children. ID checks are undertaken.

All of our interview panels include members who have been trained in Safer Recruitment practices. All interviews include specific 'Warner' questions, designed to explore attitudes and motivation for working with children.

No one is employed without suitable references and a complete working and training history. Gaps are queried.

## **Visitors**

All visitors have to sign in and out. All visitors must wear a badge, the colour of which identifies if they have DBS clearance. New visitors are asked to provide proof of ID. All visitors are expected to read a summary of our Safeguarding Policy and sign that they understand their responsibilities.

## **Pupil Welfare — here and at home**

We have an exhaustive and successful Anti Bullying Policy and Charter. Bullying is extremely rare here, but we are vigilant and record all concerns.

There are 'Worry Boxes' around school for pupils to anonymously self-refer.

We chose to employ a full time Pastoral Care Lead, to whom staff, children and families can refer.

We take a 'wholistic' approach and try to support families where difficulties outside of school may trouble children. Our Pastoral Team offer support with bereavement, family break-up, behaviour at home, parenting skills and much, much more.

Our staff record all concerns and worries raised by children in their class logs and can pass them onto the Pastoral Team.

Our SENCo is part of our Pastoral Team and specialises in support of children and families where Special Needs exist.

We have an Ethos and Values Statement that commits us to delivering a broad, relevant curriculum and to teaching core values and citizenship.

We build time for Wellbeing and Mindfulness for children into every day and will develop this further. We have a Wellbeing and Mental Health Lead and a team of pupils, the Wellbeing Warriors, trained to support peers and who feed back to us.

## **First Aid and Health**

Trained First Aiders are always available. All staff have basic first aid training. Key staff have more advanced First Aid Training (Paediatric) and are designated First Aiders. At break times, the First Aid station is always staffed. We have two automated external defibrillators on site. A register is kept of pupils with medical needs and serious allergies. Some pupils have individual health plans.

## **Staff Training**

All staff have completed at least the Statutory basic Safeguarding and Child Protection course and this is renewed at least every 3 years. This supports staff in spotting the signs of abuse, keeping up to date with new developments and knowing how to record and report disclosures.

Schools must have a Designated Safeguarding Lead. We have 4 members of staff trained for this: The Head, Deputy, SENCo and Pastoral Lead. These staff know how to escalate concerns to the relevant agencies and how to manage allegations and disclosures.

All staff are also trained in online-safety, Child Sexual Exploitation, Prevent (Radicalisation), recognising FGM (Female Genital Mutilation), County-Lines and more. Key staff are trained in safe handling of children and de-escalation techniques.

## **Referrals — Children First**

When children make disclosures or we receive information which suggests there is a child welfare concern we will make referrals to outside agencies., including the Police and/or Social Care.

Nottinghamshire has a well established pathway and system for then determining what action, if any, is needed to protect a child. The protection of the child is paramount.

We will generally try to gain parental consent for referrals, but will refer without this if we feel it is in the best interests of the child.

We recognise that children sometimes tell us ‘random’ things, exaggerate or get things confused.

However, our ‘Children First’ approach means we will still refer if there is any possibility of truth in what they tell us. It is then for other agencies to work with families to establish the facts.

## **E-Safety**

We recognise the threats that can be presented online.

In school, our web access is strongly firewalled and filtered. Children do not go online unsupervised.

All children complete an age-appropriate online-safety awareness course in Key Stage 1 and again in Key Stage 2.

All teaching staff are trained to identify risks and how to respond with regard to:

Child Sexual Exploitation, including online grooming Radicalisation

## **Whistleblowing and Concerns about staff**

If you have concerns regarding the conduct of staff or any aspect of service provision, you may inform the Head, in confidence. If your concern relates to the Head, you should contact the Transform Trust Safeguarding Lead, Claire Smith on 0115 982 5090. Alternatively, you can contact the relevant Local Authority Designated Officer

## **Key Contacts - all can be contacted via our main number, 0115 911 066**

- Headteacher and Designated Safeguarding Lead 1: Mr Peter Hillier (head@parkdale.notts.sch.uk)
- Deputy Head and Designated Safeguarding Lead II: Mrs Julia Burge (juliaburge@parkdale.notts.sch.uk...)
- Pastoral Lead and Designated Safeguarding Lead III: Miss Jenny Ward (home.link@parkdale.notts.sch.uk)
- SENCo, Pupil Premium Advocate and Designated Safeguarding Lead IV: Mrs Alex Taylor (ataylor@parkdale.notts.sch.uk)
- Lead Governor for Safeguarding: Mrs Susan Edwards sedwards@parkdale.notts.sch.uk
- Nottinghamshire Local Authority Designated Officer: Eva Callaghan, 0115 8041272
- Nottingham City Local Authority Designated Officer: Eve Hailwood, 0115 8764148
- Transform Trust Safeguarding Lead, Claire Smith, 0115 982 5090