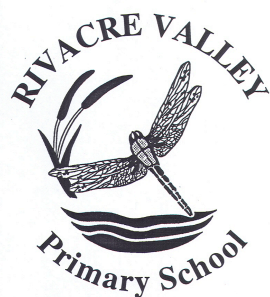


**RIVACRE VALLEY PRIMARY
SCHOOL**



CHILD PROTECTION POLICY

INTRODUCTION

All staff at Rivacre Valley Primary School, both teaching and non-teaching, have a responsibility to ensure the protection and welfare of children is paramount. This also extends to any volunteers accepted to work in the school during school hours when pupils are on the premises.

Definition:

Child protection is the activity undertaken to protect individual children who are suffering or likely to suffer harm.

Safeguarding is more than child protection. Safeguarding begins with the preventative education and activities which enable children and young people to grow up safely and securely in circumstances where their development and wellbeing is promoted.

(Please refer to Rivacre Valley Primary School Safeguarding Policy for further information on Safeguarding)

Key Principles of our Child Protection Policy:

- The child or young person's welfare is paramount
- The voice of the child or young person should be heard
- Prevention
- Responses should be proportionate to the circumstances
- Protection
- Evidence-based and informed decision making

DESIGNATED STAFF WITH RESPONSIBILITY FOR CHILD PROTECTION

- Designated Senior Person for child protection = **Mrs. Kate Docherty (Headteacher)**
- Deputy Designated Safeguarding Lead = **Miss Causer (Specialist lead teacher)**
- **Mrs. Yvonne Colclough (Deputy Headteacher)** will deputise for the Designated Senior Person /Teacher
- Named governors responsible for Safeguarding = **Ms Lisa Thoms**

This policy is informed by the following legal frameworks and guidance

- UN convention on the Rights of the Child 1989 - Ratified in UK 1991
- Education Act 2002
- Children Act 2004
- Sexual Offences Act 2003
- Children Act 1989
- Safeguarding Vulnerable Groups Act 2006
- Working together to safeguard Children 2023
- Working together to safeguard children: a guide to inter-agency working to safeguard and promote the welfare of children" (Department for Education, 2018)
- Counter terrorism and Security Act 2015
- Keeping Children Safe in Education 2024
- What to do if you are worried a child is being abused 2015
- General Data Protection Regulation 2018
- Care Act 2014
- Prevent Duty Guidance 2015
- Serious Crime Act 2015
- Information Sharing 2018

Related policies at Rivacre Valley Primary School:

- Safeguarding
- Behaviour
- Confidentiality
- Anti-bullying
- Mental Health & Well Being
- SEND
- H&S
- Whistleblowing

Training and support:

- The Designated Child Protection lead undertakes training every 2 years
- All other staff who work with children should undertake training to equip them to carry out their responsibilities for Child Protection effectively every 3 years and receive an annual update or sooner if the need arises
- The Governing Board and support staff will receive basic awareness level 2 training on Child Protection every 3 years or sooner if the need arises
- Current child protection issues will be circulated to all stakeholders through staff meetings and written statements
- The school operates an open door policy and if a member of staff has a concern they know the members of staff who they should discuss the matter with

Confidentiality:

- We recognise that all matters relating to child protection are confidential
- The Headteacher or Designated lead will only disclose information about a pupil to other members of staff on a need to know basis
- All staff are aware that they have a professional responsibility to share information with other agencies in order to safeguard children
- All staff are aware that they cannot make a promise to a child to keep secrets. There will be a point in a disclosure when it is necessary to tell the child that this information needs to be shared with other professionals.

Professionals can only work together to safeguard children if there is an exchange of relevant information between them. This has been recognised in principle by the courts. Any disclosure of personal information to others (including the social care departments) must always however have regard to both common and statute law.

The law permits the disclosure of confidential information necessary to safeguard a child or children. Disclosure should be **justifiable** in each case, according to the particular facts of the case, and legal advice should be sought if in doubt.

Referral

The designated safeguarding lead should assess all information available to the school about a child and refer to IART / Early Help and Prevention Service, if appropriate, confirming this referral in writing by completing a MARF (multi Agency referral form) online.

PROCEDURE FOR MONITORING AND RECORD KEEPING

Records and Monitoring

- All staff are required to keep a record of concerns about the welfare or behaviour of a child on CPOMS (Child Protection Online management System)
- All incidents logged on CPOMS are automatically shared with the Designated lead and deputy (via email link to a secure log on)
- Child Protection (CP) records are kept separate from other school records and are stored securely. All new records are stored electronically on CPOMS and historical records are uploaded onto the system.
- Only staff named in this policy have access to child protection files
- If a child transfers or leaves, the child protection files are passed onto the receiving school marked confidential and for the sole attention of the Senior Designated Child Protection Person. A receipt for these files is required. CPOMS files are electronically transferred.

ALLEGATIONS AGAINST PROFESSIONAL CARERS

This school operates vetting and safe recruitment practices.

Procedures are in place to support all staff who have concerns about the conduct of any adult working in school, either in a professional role or in a voluntary capacity.

In the event of an allegation about the behaviour of a teacher or other professional Rivacre Valley will contact the Local Authority HR and SCiE team (LADO: Paul Jenkins).
<https://www.cheshirewestlscb.org.uk/policy-and-procedures/allegations-management-lado/>

Ellesmere Port & Neston Locality Officer:
Vicki Thomason

M: 07785 542 018
victoria.thomason@cheshirewestandchester.gov.uk

Types of abuse and neglect

All school staff are aware that abuse, neglect and safeguarding issues are rarely standalone events that can be covered by one definition or label. In most cases, multiple issues will overlap with one another.

Abuse: a form of maltreatment of a child. Somebody may abuse or neglect a child by inflicting harm or by failing to act to prevent harm. Children may be abused in a family or in an institutional or community setting by those known to them or, more rarely, by others (eg via the internet). They may be abused by an adult or adults or by another child or children (child on child abuse).

Types of abuse:

- Physical abuse
- Emotional abuse
- Sexual abuse
- Neglect

PREVENTATIVE WORK

We recognise that for children, high self-esteem, confidence, support, friends and clear lines of communication with a trusted adult, helps prevention.

Our school will therefore:

- 1) Establish and maintain an ethos where children feel secure and are encouraged to talk.
- 2) Ensure that children know they can approach the adults in school if they are worried or are in difficulty. This is emphasised through assemblies, circle time and the general ethos within the school. Children know there are systems in place to support them when reporting abuse. They know their concerns will be treated seriously.
- 3) Include within the curriculum, activities and opportunities for PSHE which help to equip children with the skills they need to stay safe from abuse.
- 4) Include within the curriculum, material which will help children develop realistic attitudes to the responsibilities of their developing lives.
- 5) Include within the curriculum, material which promotes Internet Safety
- 6) Ensure all children, up to Year 6, are brought/collected by a responsible person over the age of 16 years and liaise with parents as to who these people will be. If parents wish a Year 5 & 6 child to come to / home from school unsupervised, we ask for written permission from parents.
- 7) Ensure there are clear processes in place to support victims, perpetrators and any other children effected by child on child abuse. This type of abuse is never accepted as “Banter”, “having a laugh”, “part of growing up”. It will be dealt with seriously as those types of behaviours are unacceptable and will lead to an environment being unsafe.
- 8) Recognise that child on child abuse can take different forms: bullying / abuse in an intimate relationship / physical abuse / sexual harassment or violence / sharing of nude and semi-nude images / upskirting / sexual abuse / initiation & hazing violence and rituals.

PROTECTIVE WORK

Schools do not operate in isolation. Child protection is the responsibility of all adults and especially those working with children.

All staff are aware that they must convey their concerns over child protection issues to the Headteacher and Senior Leadership Team via the CPOMS system (Child Protection Online Management System). Parents are informed of the school’s responsibilities under the child protection procedures through the school prospectus, induction meetings and occasionally by newsletter.

Supporting Pupils at Risk

Rivacre Valley Primary School recognises that children who are abused or who witness violence, may find it difficult to develop a sense of worth and to view the world in a positive way. School may be the only stable, secure and predictable element in the lives of children at risk and as a result their behaviour may be challenging and defiant and may need to be dealt with according to the Behaviour Policy.

Rivacre Valley Primary School will endeavour to support the pupil through:

- a) The curriculum, to encourage self-esteem and self-motivation.
- b) The school ethos which promotes a positive, supportive and secure environment and which gives children a sense of being valued.
- c) The consistent implementation of school behaviour management policies.
- d) Regular liaison with other professionals who support the pupils and their families, Behaviour Improvement Partners or Family Workers from Early Integrated Services
- e) The development and support of a responsive, informed and knowledgeable staff group who will do their best to respond appropriately to child protection situations.
- f) Offering emotional literacy support (ELSA) if needed

Our policy for dealing with bullying is set out within our Anti-Bullying Policy.

We realise that additional barriers can exist when ensuring the protection of children with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities. These can include:

- Assumptions that indicators of possible abuse such as behaviour, mood and injury relate to the child's disability without further exploration
- Being more prone to peer group isolation than others
- The potential for children with SEN and disabilities being disproportionately impacted by behaviours such as bullying, without outwardly showing any signs
- Communication barriers and difficulties overcoming these barriers

School staff who work, in any capacity, with children with profound and multiple disabilities, sensory impairment and/or behavioural problems, will need to be particularly sensitive to signs of abuse.

Equal Opportunities

At Rivacre Valley Primary School we are committed to ensuring equality of education and opportunity for pupils, staff, and all those receiving services from the school regardless of race, disability. Religion or belief, sex, sexual orientation or gender identity.

Reviewed annually.