



Friends of Shap School - Safeguarding Children Policy

Updated October 2024

Introduction

This Policy sets out the principles for safeguarding within the Friends of Shap School (FoSS).

It is relevant to all within the association and is endorsed by the committee of the Friends of Shap School. It will be reviewed annually to ensure that it remains appropriate to the Organisation and its volunteers needs.

FoSS is a volunteer run charity, raises funds to enhance the provision of activities and services at Shap CE Endowed Primary School. This include fundraising events which can be attended by children, parents, carers and the wider school community. Beyond these events, volunteers and students may all have incidental contact with children through the delivery of activities on behalf of FoSS

Definitions

For the purposes of this Policy and procedures a child, young person, pupil or student is referred to as a 'child' or a 'pupil' and they are normally under 18 years of age.

Wherever the term 'parent' is used this includes any person with parental authority over the child concerned e.g. carers, legal guardians etc.

According to the DfE, safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children is defined as:

- protecting children from maltreatment;
- preventing impairment of children's mental and physical health or development;
- ensuring children are growing up in circumstances consistent with the provision of safe and effective care; and
- taking action to enable all children to have the best outcomes.

Child protection is a part of safeguarding and promoting welfare. It refers to the activity that is undertaken to protect specific children who are suffering, or are likely to suffer, significant harm. Safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children is everyone's responsibility. Everyone who has contact with children and their families and carers has a role to play in safeguarding children. They should consider, at all times, what is in the best interests of the child

Principles

The FoSS Safeguarding Children Policy is based upon these principles -

- The welfare of a child or young person will always be paramount
- The welfare of families will be promoted
- The rights, wishes and feelings of children, young people and their families will be respected and listened to



- Keeping children safe from harm requires people who work with children to share information as appropriate – (see GDPR Act 2018 for guidance)

The Policy has been developed in conjunction with the school's safeguarding lead.

Responsibility

Parent Teacher Associations (PTAs) have a duty of care to consider the safety of children and vulnerable adults. This should be taken into consideration when risk assessing a PTA event and the duration of such events.

It is best practice for PTAs to have a set of procedures in place and guidelines for volunteers to follow at events, this may be developed with guidance from the school.

All FoSS members should be aware of the person responsible for safeguarding within the school. The school will provide training for FoSS members on safeguarding and the procedures to follow or FoSS may arrange their own training for its volunteers.

The current Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL) at Shap Primary School is:

Katie Chappell head@shap.cumbria.sch.uk 01931 716274

The Deputy Designated Safeguarding Lead (DDSL) is:

Vicki Capstick vcapstick@shap.cumbria.sch.uk 01931 716274

The FoSS committee will include at least 2 people with safeguarding training.

Committee members for FoSS can be contacted in writing c/o Shap CE Primary School, Main Street, Shap, CA10 3NL or at friendsofshapschool@gmail.com A list of current trained members is available from the committee.

Trained committee members will receive refresher training on an annual basis. When any named member with safeguarding training leaves the committee, arrangements will be made with school to provide training for another current member of the committee to ensure the minimum of 2 trained members is maintained.

Within the bounds of best practice, FoSS have guidelines and procedures in place for committee members and other volunteers to follow at events and activities. This has been developed and checked against the existing School Safeguarding Policy and procedures to ensure consistency. It has also been reviewed against the Council guidelines for a model safeguarding policy and includes the procedure and contact details for raising any safeguarding concerns.

All members of the PTA that visit school during the working day will adopt and follow school policies for signing in etc. at the school office, and any other safeguarding procedure

Guidance for FoSS Events:

- All Events should be risk assessed, which should identify any safeguarding concerns and ensure all organisers are aware of the policy and guidance and have all procedures in place.

- A named member/s of the school staff team to be on site throughout an activity or event. A contact email/ numbers of DSL/DDSL's to be available for the member of staff on site should they need to contact for guidance/support etc
- Events where children are dropped off and collected: a register should be available, and children should be checked in and out of the event. The register should include a list of any child being collected by another parent/carer or travelling home alone.
- A named Qualified First Aider MUST be present at all events (named on the Risk Assessment)
- Should a child be injured or taken unwell or be upset during an event, the lead PTA Member should liaise with the member of staff on site and contact the parent/carer to advise to collect the child or inform as to whether further medical attention is urgently required
- There MUST be DBS checked adults available at all events.
- Contact details for the child's parent/carer may be collated by the PTA for the event
- Exits should be monitored /staffed to ensure children cannot leave an event unattended
- If this is a regulated activity the volunteer will need an Enhanced DBS check.

What to do if you have concerns about a child

You may have concerns about a child because of something you have seen or heard, or a child may choose to disclose something to you.

If a child discloses information to you, you should:

- Listen to the child without displaying shock or disbelief
- Accept what is said and reassure the child, do not make promises that you may not be able to keep, e.g. 'Everything will be alright now'
- Do not ask leading questions and do not interrogate the child – this is not your responsibility to investigate
- Explain to the child what you have to do next and who you have to talk to
- Take notes, if possible, or write up the conversation as soon as possible afterwards
- Contact the school safeguarding officer or a member of the school leadership team as soon as possible.

Contact details and process for the local authority safeguarding hub

If you are concerned about a child, you will contact the Westmorland and Furness Safeguarding Hub. Information on how to make a referral will continue to be accessed via the current page on the CSCP website:



<https://www.cumbriasafeguardingchildren.co.uk/professionals/hub/whattodoifyouhaveconcernsaboutachild.asp>

The hub has its own single contact form, phone number and email address:

Westmorland and Furness Safeguarding Hub

- Telephone Number - 0300 373 2724
- Email Address – safeguarding.hub@westmorlandandfurness.gov.uk

Local Authority Designated Officer - LADO

Cumbria LADO service will continue to cover both local authority footprints - Cumberland and Westmorland and Furness.

If you have concerns regarding someone who works with a child including foster carers and volunteers these should be reported to the Local Authority Designated Officer (LADO). This applies to all paid, unpaid, volunteers, casual, agency employees or anyone working in a self-employed capacity.

Information on LADO including how to contact and the referral form will still be accessed via the CSCP website :<https://www.cumbriasafeguardingchildren.co.uk/professionals/lado.asp>

Review process and timescales

This policy will be reviewed by the Friends of Shap School committee annually before each AGM.

Appendix one

GUIDANCE ON TYPES OF ABUSE AND NEGLECT

Source: 'Working Together to Safeguard Children' – A Guide to inter-agency working to safeguard and promote the welfare of children. Published by: Department for Children, Schools & Families

Published May 2015 – last updated 1 July 2022

What is abuse and neglect?

Abuse and neglect are forms 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 a stranger for example, via the internet. They may be abused by an adult or adults, or another child or children.

Physical Abuse

Physical abuse may involve hitting, shaking, throwing, poisoning, burning or scalding, drowning, suffocating, or otherwise causing physical harm to a child including involving children in self-flagellation religious/cultural ceremonies. Physical harm may also be caused when a parent or carer feigns the symptoms of, or deliberately causes ill health to a child whom they are looking after. This

situation is commonly described using terms such as, fabricated illness by proxy or Munchausen Syndrome by proxy.

Emotional Abuse

Emotional abuse is the persistent emotional ill treatment of a child such as to cause severe and persistent adverse effects on the child's emotional development. It may involve conveying to children that they are worthless or unloved, inadequate, or valued only in so far as they meet the needs of another person. It may include not giving the child opportunities to express their views, deliberately silencing them or 'making fun' of what they say or how they communicate. It may feature age or developmentally inappropriate expectations being imposed on children. These may include interactions that are beyond the child's developmental capability, as well as overprotection and limitation of exploration and learning, or preventing the child participating in normal social interaction. It may involve seeing or hearing the ill-treatment of another (including domestic abuse or self-flagellation of adults in religious/cultural ceremonies) serious bullying (including cyber-bullying), causing children frequently to feel frightened or in danger, or the exploitation or corruption of children. Some level of emotional abuse is involved in all types of maltreatment of a child, though it may occur alone.

Sexual Abuse

Sexual abuse involves forcing or enticing a child or young person to take part in sexual activities, whether or not the child is aware of what is happening. The activities may involve physical contact, including penetrative (e.g. rape or buggery) or non-penetrative acts (e.g. masturbation, kissing, rubbing and touching outside of clothing). They may include non-contact activities, such as involving children in looking at pornographic material, watching sexual activities, encouraging children to behave in sexually inappropriate ways, or the grooming (preparing) of a child (including via the internet).

Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE)

Child Sexual Exploitation is a form of sexual abuse. It occurs where an individual or group take advantage of an imbalance of power to coerce, manipulate or deceive a child or young person under the age of 18 into sexual activity (a) in exchange for something the victim needs or wants and/or (b) for the financial advantage or increased status of the perpetrator or facilitator. The victim may have been sexually exploited even if the sexual activity appears consensual. Child sexual exploitation does not always involve physical contact; it can also occur through the use of technology. ('Child Sexual Exploitation: Definition and Guide for Practitioners' Feb 17)

Neglect

Neglect is the persistent failure to meet a child's basic physical and/or psychological needs, likely to result in the serious impairment of the child's health or development. It may involve a parent or carer failing to provide adequate food, shelter and clothing, supervision, failing to protect a child from physical and emotional harm or danger, or the failure to ensure access to appropriate medical care or treatment. It may also include neglect of, or unresponsiveness to, a child's basic emotional needs.

Domestic Abuse

Domestic abuse is any type of controlling, bullying, threatening or violent behaviour between people in a relationship. But it isn't just physical violence – domestic abuse includes emotional, physical,

sexual, financial or psychological abuse. Abusive behaviour can occur in any relationship. It can continue even after the relationship has ended. Both men and women can be abused or abusers. Domestic abuse can seriously harm children and young people. Witnessing domestic abuse is child abuse.

Bullying

Child abuse may occur between children of the same age or of an age which falls within the range of the Children's Act (18 years and below). Such abuse normally manifests itself as bullying. Bullying can be psychological, verbal or physical in nature. It involves an imbalance of power in which the powerful attack the powerless, and occurs over time rather than being a single act. In certain instances, bullying may occur inadvertently. For example, sports coaches must not adopt methods which may be construed as bullying in an attempt to improve performance. Bullying is unacceptable behaviour. Employees who witness or suspect bullying must report it immediately to ensure the practice is stopped. Staff are to take due regard to Safeguarding guidelines on any intervention of a bullying incident.

Examples of bullying behaviour can include:

Cyber-bullying – emails, chat rooms, message boards, social networking sites, instant messaging services, sms text messages, phone calls and misuse of camera phones

Physical – physical assault (pushing, kicking, hitting, punching, etc) or threats of violence

Verbal – name calling, insulting others, sarcasm, lying about others, spreading malicious rumours or persistent teasing

Emotional – ignoring/excluding, tormenting, ridiculing, deliberately embarrassing or humiliating others, making people feel different or like an outsider

Racist – using racial taunts, gestures or racist graffiti

Sexual – unwanted physical contact, abusive comments or homophobic behaviour.

Online Abuse

Online abuse is any type of abuse that happens on the web, whether through social networks, playing online games or using mobile phones. Children and young people may experience cyberbullying, grooming, sexual abuse, sexual exploitation or emotional abuse. Children can be at risk of online abuse from people they know, as well as from strangers. Online abuse may be part of abuse that is taking place in the real world (for example bullying or grooming). Or it may be that the abuse only happens online (for example persuading children to take part in sexual activity online).

Children can feel like there is no escape from online abuse – abusers can contact them at any time of the day or night, the abuse can come into safe places like their bedrooms, and images and videos can be stored and shared with other people.

Female Genital Mutilation (FGM)

Female genital mutilation (FGM) is the partial or total removal of external female genitalia for nonmedical reasons. It's also known as female circumcision or cutting. Religious, social or cultural reasons are sometimes given for FGM. However, FGM is child abuse. It's dangerous and a criminal offence. There are no medical reasons to carry out FGM. It doesn't enhance fertility and it doesn't



make childbirth safer. It is used to control female sexuality and can cause severe and long-lasting damage to physical and emotional health.

Honour-based Abuse

Honour based abuse and violence is a collection of practices, which are used to control behaviour and exert power within families to protect perceived cultural and religious beliefs and/or honour. Such violence can occur when perpetrators perceive that an individual has shamed the family and/or community by breaking their honour code. The individual is being punished for actually, or allegedly, undermining what the family or community believes to be the correct code of behaviour. So-called 'honour based violence' is a fundamental abuse of Human Rights. There is no honour in the commission of murder, kidnap and the many other acts, behaviour and conduct which make up violence in the name of honour. It may be referred to in some communities as 'Izzat'. It is often committed with some degree of approval and/or collusion from family and/or community members. Such violence can occur when perpetrators perceive that a relative has shamed the family and/or community, by breaking their honour code. But whilst Honour Based Violence often focuses on the violence experienced by victims, other forms of abuse should not be overlooked.

Women are predominantly (but not exclusively) the victims of 'so called honour-based violence', which is used to assert male power in order to control female autonomy and sexuality.

Honour Based Violence can take place across national and international boundaries, within extended families and communities and often cuts across cultures, communities and faith groups, including Turkish, Kurdish, Afghani, South Asian, African, Middle Eastern and European. This is not an exhaustive list.

The term is used to describe violence, which sometimes results in a murder, in the name of so-called honour. This is when - predominantly - women are injured or killed for perceived immoral behaviour, which is deemed to have breached the honour code of a family or community, causing shame.

Radicalisation (Prevent Duty)

Vulnerable children (and adults) can be susceptible to radicalisation and recruitment into terrorist organisations; nationally there have been cases where extremist groups have attempted to radicalise vulnerable children to hold extreme views. Such views include justifying political, religious, sexist or racist violence, or to steer individuals into a rigid and narrow ideology that is either vocal or active opposition to fundamental British values including embracing diversity and mutual respect and tolerance of different faiths and beliefs.

While it remains rare for children and young people to become involved in terrorist activity, they can be exposed to terrorist and extremist influences or prejudiced views from a young age. This can include through the influence of family members or friends and/or direct contact with extremist groups and organisations or, increasingly, through the internet. This can put a young person at risk of being drawn into illegal activity and has the potential to cause significant harm. As with other forms of safeguarding strategies, early intervention is always preferable. All agencies working with children and young people, along with families and communities, play a key role in ensuring young people and their communities are safe from the threat of radicalisation and terrorism.

Prevent is one of the key elements of CONTEST, the Government's counter- terrorism strategy and it aims to stop people from being drawn into terrorist-related activity.



If any type of abuse or neglect is reported or suspected, staff/volunteers must follow the safeguarding procedures outlined in this policy.