

**Ranvilles Infant School**  
**Child Protection Policy**

**Approved by the Governing body September 2018**  
**To be reviewed by the Governing body September 2019**

**Policy Statement**

At Ranvilles Infant School we recognise our moral and statutory responsibility to safeguard and promote the welfare of all children.

We make every effort to provide a safe and welcoming environment underpinned by a culture of openness where both children and adults feel secure, able to talk and believe that they are being listened to.

We maintain an attitude of “it could happen here” where safeguarding is concerned.

The purpose of this policy is to provide staff, volunteers and governors with the framework they need in order to keep children safe and secure in our school and to inform parents and guardians how we will safeguard their children whilst they are in our care.

Specific guidance is available to staff within the procedure documents.

**Definitions**

Within this document:

**Child Protection** is an aspect of safeguarding, but is focused on how we respond to children who have been significantly harmed or are at risk of significant harm.

The term **Staff** applies to all those working for or on behalf of the school, full time or part time, in either a paid or voluntary capacity. This also includes parents and governors.

**Child** refers to all young people who have not yet reached their 18 birthday. On the whole, this will apply to pupils of our school; however the policy will extend to visiting children and students from other establishments

**Parent** refers to birth parents and other adults in a parenting role for example adoptive parents, step parents, guardians and foster carers.

**Abuse** could mean neglect, physical, emotional or sexual abuse or any combination of these. Parents, carers and other people can harm children either by direct acts and / or failure to provide proper care. Explanations of these are given within the procedure document.

**Aims**

- To provide staff with the framework to promote and safeguard the wellbeing of children and in so doing ensure they meet their statutory responsibilities.
- To ensure consistent good practice across the school.
- To demonstrate our commitment to protecting children.

## **Principles and Values**

- Children have a right to feel secure and cannot learn effectively unless they do so.
- All children have a right to be protected from harm.
- All staff have a key role in prevention of harm and an equal responsibility to act on any suspicion or disclosure that may indicate a child is at risk of harm, either in the school or in the community, taking into account *contextual safeguarding*, in accordance with the guidance.
- We acknowledge that working in partnership with other agencies, protects children and reduces risk and so we will engage in partnership working throughout the child protection process to safeguard children.
- Whilst the school will work openly with parents as far as possible, the school reserves the right to contact Children's Social Care or the police, without notifying parents if this is in the child's best interests.

## **Leadership and Management**

We recognise that staff anxiety around child protection can compromise good practice and so have established clear lines of accountability, training and advice to support the process and individual staff within that process.

In this school any individual can contact the designated safeguarding lead (DSL) or either of the Deputy DSL's if they have concerns about a young person.

**DSL is Wendy Collins**, Head teacher **and the deputy DSL's are Kelly Scourfield and Stacey Barnes** Assistant Head teachers. There is a nominated safeguarding governor Mr S Nightingale who will receive reports of allegations against the head teacher and act on the behalf of the governing body

As an employer we comply with the "Disqualification under the childcare act 2006" guidance issued in February 2015

## **Training**

All staff in our school are expected to be aware of the signs and symptoms of abuse and must be able to respond appropriately. Training is provided by the DSL every year with separate training to all new staff on appointment. Whole school external training will be delivered every three years. The DSL's at Ranvilles Infant School will attend training every other year and undertake professional development in this role every year to keep up to date with any changes in guidance.

Any update in national or local guidance will be shared with all staff in briefings and then captured in the next whole school training. This policy will be updated during the year to reflect any changes brought about by new guidance.

## **Referral**

Following any concerns raised by staff, the DSL will assess the information and consider if significant harm has happened or there is a risk that it may happen. If the evidence suggests the threshold of significant harm, or risk of significant harm has been reached, or they are not clear if the threshold is met, then the DSL will contact Children's Social Care. If the DSL is not available or there are immediate concerns, the staff member will refer directly to children's social care and the police if appropriate.

Generally the DSL will inform the parents prior to making a referral however there are situations where this may not be possible or appropriate particularly when informing parents/carers may place the children at further risk.

**N.B. The exception to this process will be in those cases of known FGM where there is a mandatory requirement for the teacher to report directly to the police, although the DSL should also be made aware.**

### **Confidentiality**

- We maintain that all matters relating to child protection are to be treated as confidential and only shared as per the 'Information Sharing Advice for Practitioners' (DfE 2015) guidance.
- There is a lawful basis for child protection concerns to be shared with agencies who have a statutory duty for child protection.
- Information will be shared with individuals within the school who 'need to know'.
- All staff are aware that they cannot promise a child to keep a disclosure confidential.

### **As a school we will educate and encourage pupils to keep safe through:**

- The content of the curriculum
- A school ethos which helps children to feel safe and able to talk freely about their concerns, believing that they will be listened to and valued.

### **Dealing with allegations against staff**

If a concern is raised about the practice or behaviour of a member of staff this information will be recorded and passed to the head teacher, Wendy Collins. The Local Authority Designated officer (LADO) will be contacted and the relevant guidance will be followed

If the allegation is against the head teacher, the person receiving the allegation will contact the LADO or the Safeguarding Governor (Mr. Nightingale) directly. If the Safeguarding Governor is not available the Chair should be informed in the first instance.

### **Dealing with allegations against pupils**

If a concern is raised that there is an allegation of a pupil abusing another pupil within the school, the 'Peer on Peer abuse' guidance will be followed. See separate policy.

### **Legal context Legal context**

Section 175 of the Education Act 2002; the Education (Independent School Standards) Regulations 2014; the Non-Maintained Special Schools (England) Regulations 2014; Children Act 2004 & 1989

#### Guidance

Hampshire Safeguarding Children Board [protocols and guidance](#) and their [procedures](#)

[Working Together to Safeguard Children \(2018\)](#)

[Keeping Children Safe in Education \(2018\)](#)

[Disqualification under the Childcare Act 2006 \(2015\)](#)

[FGM Act 2003 Mandatory Reporting Guidance \(2016\)](#)

**This policy will be reviewed at least annually in line with Dfe, HSCB and HCC and other relevant statutory guidance.**