

What is Safeguarding?

Safeguarding is the action that people take to keep all children safe, for example:

- Protecting children from harm
- Ensuring children are safe and well looked after
- Taking action so that all children are able to grow up in a safe environment.

What is Child Protection?

Child protection is the process of protecting children and young people who have been identified as suffering, or likely to suffer harm as a result of abuse. There are four types of abuse: Physical, Sexual, Emotional and Neglect.

All those who come into contact with children through their everyday work whether paid or voluntary have a duty to safeguard and promote the welfare of children.

What does our school have to do to safeguard children?

We must have a senior leader who is the Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL). Our school has a Child Protection Policy, which is available on the school website. This policy will set out the process for dealing with child protection concerns. The policy also sets out the process for reporting allegations about members of staff and volunteers.

School has a legal duty to talk to other agencies such as Children's Social Care and the Police if they think a child may be at risk of harm.

What will happen if anyone in school is worried about the welfare of your child?

If anyone in school is worried about the welfare of your child, this will be discussed with you unless they think that this conversation could put your child at a greater risk of harm.

The school must share all relevant information with Children's Social Care if they are concerned about your child.

Sometimes, children will tell members of staff information about their home life. This can be through class discussions, 1:1 conversations, during ELSA sessions or sometimes at non-specific times. If a child makes a disclosure at school, for example, they have been hurt, not received an appropriate level of care etc, school has a duty of care to investigate the disclosure from the child. If appropriate, the concern will be shared with you so that the DSL can get some context to a child's disclosure. Depending on the nature of the concern, it may be that the incident is recorded on the school safeguarding system, CPOMS.

If the DSL feels that extra support is needed, then an anonymous Integrated Front Door (IFD) consultation may take place where the DSL will receive next steps from the IFD team. It may be that the DSL or the IFD team feel that a referral should be sent in for consideration.

If a referral is going to be sent to the IFD team, the DSL will attempt to get consent from one parent (consent is only needed from one parent) unless the DSL feels that this conversation could put your child at a greater risk of harm.

The IFD team will investigate the referral. This process could include talking to the children, other professionals and looking into any previous concerns.

Depending on the nature of the concern, it may be that a referral is completed and sent to IFD without any previous concerns.

All safeguarding records will be transferred to the child's next school when they transfer to their junior setting or move to another school.

Training

All adults in school, including volunteers, must have regular training to ensure that they are aware of the signs of abuse and know what to do about their concerns. They have a duty to report these to the DSL.

DBS Checks

We have a policy that all adults who work in 'regulated activity' – i.e. unsupervised activities such as teach, train, instruct, or supervise children; and work in a 'specified place' such as a school; and this work is regular i.e. once a week or more, will require an Enhanced DBS Disclosure. This is to help ensure that unsuitable people are prevented from working with children.

Online Safety

Safeguarding children when online presents many challenges. In school, our internet server is filtered and monitored and the tablets we use are set up with restricted access appropriate to primary school age children. This helps us to enable children to use the internet safely. However, online safety education is also essential in protecting our children's futures in a digital world.

Making sure that children do not access inappropriate content is essential but only part of the bigger picture; online safety includes educating children about and protecting them from; online abuse, online grooming, privacy violations, cyber bullying, sexting and also associated mental health issues such as anxiety, depression and lack of sleep.

We put support articles in our newsletters with advice for parents on supporting children at home with online safety.

What should I do if I am worried about a child?

Please report any concerns to the school DSL or DDSL.

What should I do if I have a concern about a member of school staff?

Report all allegations of this nature to the Headteacher. If it is the Headteacher you are concerned about, then report to the Chair of Governors.

No child should suffer harm, either at home or at school. Everyone who is part of our school community has a responsibility to make sure that all of our children are kept safe.

This leaflet has been sent to you to make sure you understand the safeguarding procedures at our school

Should you have any questions, please speak to a member of the Safeguarding team at Harnham Infant School.

Further Sources of Information are:

- Child Protection Policy (available on the school website) - [Safeguarding | Harnham Infant School](#)
- DfE document – Keeping Children Safe in Education - [Keeping children safe in education - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](#)
- NSPCC website - <https://www.nspcc.org.uk/>
- Wiltshire Safeguarding Children’s Board website – www.wiltshirescb.org.uk

The Harnham Infant School Safeguarding Team

Our Designated Safeguarding Lead

Miss Natasha Dorrington (Headteacher)



The Deputy Designated Safeguarding Lead is

Mrs Laura Pike (Deputy Headteacher)



Other DDSLs are: Fawn Sowerby and Chris Lister

Our Governor responsible for Safeguarding is Mrs Liz Jennings – ejennings@harnham-inf.wilts.sch.uk

The Chair of Governors (contactable through the school office) is Mrs Beth Evans – bevans@harnham-inf.wilts.sch.uk

You can find further information and sources of support on the Safeguarding Pages on our school

website:

<https://www.harnhaminfants.org.uk/safeguarding>



Safeguarding Advice
For Parents of Harnham
Infant School

September 2024