



Child Protection Policy

Introduction

The health, safety and well-being of all our children are of paramount importance to all the adults who work in our school this includes supply staff and volunteers. Our children have the right to protection, regardless of age, gender, race, culture or disability. In our school we respect our children. The atmosphere within our school is one that encourages all children to do their best. We provide opportunities that enable our children to take and make decisions for themselves. We work to create a culture of security to enable them to feel valued, listened to and to know that their wishes and feelings are respected.

We recognise that abuse and neglect can result in underachievement. We strive to ensure that all our children make good educational progress.

Teaching RSHE, personal, social and health education and citizenship, as part of the National Curriculum helps to develop appropriate attitudes in our children, and makes them aware of the impact of their decisions on others. We also teach them how to recognise different risks in different situations, and how to behave in response to them. All children are encouraged to report any form of abuse which may include:

- Peer abuse
- Bullying/Cyber Bullying
- Sexting
- Hate
- Gangs and Youth Violence
- Female Genital Mutilation
- Forced marriage
- Domestic Violence

This is dealt with in-line with the schools Behaviour Policy, E-Safety Policy, Anti-Bullying including Homophobic Policy and the Staff Behaviour Policy.

This policy has been developed to ensure the school fulfils the principles, requirements and any statutory duties established by:

- Education Act 2002
- Children Act 2004
- Safeguarding Children and Safer Recruitment in Education 2007
- Working together to safeguard children 2013
- Safer Working Guidance DfE 2014
- Keeping Children Safe in Education 2020
- The Prevent Duty Advice June 2015
- The school will also follow the procedures set out by Bury Safeguarding Children Board (BSCB).

This policy applies to all staff, including supply staff, governors and volunteers working in the school. All policies are subject to ongoing evaluation and full annual reviews.

All policies are made available and explained to parents and are available for inspection and reference at all times. A copy of this Safeguarding Policy is on the school's website.

Training

All staff, including supply staff, governors and regular volunteers have access to this Child Protection Policy and the implications on their role are fully explained.

- All members of staff are made aware of the main forms of abuse and their symptoms, as outlined in "Recognition and Referral Handbook" (BSCB)
- All members of staff are made aware of their responsibilities in relation to the disclosure or discovery of child abuse and the school's procedures for dealing with such incidents.
- All staff members are made aware of Bury (BSCB) procedures and where to locate them.
- The Head Teacher is responsible for ensuring that appropriate ongoing training is provided to ensure that staff maintain knowledge of child protection issues and are aware of any new developments.
- The Head Teacher is responsible for the provision of appropriate levels of management and supervision to ensure all staff can fulfil their responsibilities with regard to child protection and are supported in doing so.

Refer to Safeguarding Training File and Summary

Staff Roles and Responsibilities

We understand that the school should provide a stable and secure element in the lives of all children and that all staff have a role to fulfil in relation to safeguarding children. We recognise that, because of the day to day contact with children, staff are well placed to observe children and spot potential indicators of abuse.

The Mrs McClean is the Designated Senior Person for Safeguarding within the school. The Deputy Designated Person are, Mr Stephens, Mrs Udall, Mrs Gaskell. All Safeguarding Leads receive Safeguarding training every two years and have their knowledge and skills refreshed at least annually.

Strategic timetabling will enable a designated Safeguarding Person to be available at all times whilst school is open for staff to discuss concerns with. In the unlikely event that all designated Safeguarding Persons are off site at the same time they will be contactable by phone and return to school if required.

The DSL will ensure that children with a social worker either because they are Child in Need or on a Child Protection Plan have appropriate support in place and the DSL will hold and use this information to make decisions about welfare and safeguarding.

The nominated governor responsible for safeguarding is Mrs. N Suleman.

- All members of staff understand their responsibility to be alert to the signs and symptoms of abuse and their responsibility for the immediate referral of any concerns to the designated senior person responsible for child protection.
- All members of staff will establish and maintain an environment where children feel secure, are encouraged to talk, and are listened to.
- All members of staff will implement the school's Health and Safety policies in order to maintain a safe and secure setting.
- All members of staff will ensure that children know that there are adults in the school whom they can approach if they are distressed or worried.
- All members of staff will promote anti-discriminatory and anti-oppressive practice in line with school policy by providing positive role models, promoting diversity and by acknowledging and respecting the individual needs of the child.
- All Staff have a clear understanding as to the school's policy and procedures with regards to peer on peer abuse as outlined in the school's Behaviour Policy and Staff Behaviour Policy.
- All members of staff will be made aware of the school's Whistle Blowing Policy and are encouraged to raise any concerns relating to practice in school in line with the policy.
- Clear procedures are in place for identifying possible mental health problems in children and all staff are aware of escalation routes via the Pastoral lead who is accountable for referral procedures to the Local Authority SEMH panel are in place.

Raising Awareness of Safeguarding Issues

The school is committed to raising awareness of safeguarding and to equipping children with the skills needed to keep them safe. It aims to do this by:

- Ensuring staff have access to appropriate training and resources.
- Including opportunities in the PSHE curriculum that will help children to develop skills they need to recognise and stay safe from abuse.
- Teaching children about E Safety.
- Utilising the PSHE curriculum resources to develop pupils' ability to understand, express and cope with emotions.

Safe Caring

All members of staff are made aware of the school's safeguarding procedures and are committed to working in accordance to the principles of safe caring. Further guidance is set out in *Safer Working Guidance DfE 2014 and Keeping Children Safe in Education Document 2018 updated in 2019 and 2020*.

- Every effort will be made to avoid or minimise the time when members of staff are left alone with a child. If it is necessary for a member of staff to be alone with a child then the door of the room should be kept open and another member of staff should be informed.

- If a child makes inappropriate physical or verbal contact with a member of staff or another child the incident must be reported to the senior designated person and must be recorded on CPOMS.
- Members of staff will never carry out a personal task for a child that they can do for themselves. If such contact is essential, a member of staff will assist the child as required but will always be accompanied by another member of staff whilst doing so.
- Unless a child has a specific need staff should not accompany children into the toilet.
- Pupils needing assistance in intimate care will receive that care in line with the intimate care guidelines in the Staff Behaviour Policy.
- All members of staff will be mindful of how they approach children both physically and verbally. All contact should be appropriate to the child's age and emotional understanding and unnecessary or potentially inappropriate contact will be avoided.
- Members of staff are aware that their actions, however well intentioned, may be misconstrued and therefore they must ensure that they consider, and are aware of, the implications of their actions at all times.

Disqualification under the Childcare Act 2006

Schools must ensure that they are not knowingly employing a person who is disqualified under the 2009 Regulations Act in connection with relevant childcare provision.

In order to conform with this legislation all staff at Park View School are required complete a Childcare Disqualification Declaration and sign to confirm that the statement provided is accurate and true and that in understanding their responsibilities to safeguard children they will notify the Head teacher immediately of anything that affects their suitability under the Disqualification under the Childcare Act 2006.

Failure to notify will be a serious matter and may lead to disciplinary action being taken, including a dismissal.

It is important to note that that in gathering information to make these decisions the Head teacher ensures that he acts proportionately and minimise wherever possible the intrusion into the private lives of staff and members of their household.

Further information on the Disqualification under the Childcare Act 2006 can be found on the School: [P/drive/Policies/Safeguarding/Child Protection](#).

Recognising Child Abuse

All staff members have an awareness of safeguarding issues. Staff are aware that behaviours linked to drug taking, alcohol abuse; truanting and sexting put children in danger.

All staff are aware that safeguarding issues can manifest themselves via peer on peer abuse. This is most likely to include, but may not be limited to, bullying (including cyberbullying), gender based violence/sexual assaults and sexting.

Park View School is aware that technologies inspire children to be creative, communicate and learn. However, while the internet is a great resource, it is important that as a school we protect children from the risks they may encounter. All members of staff are committed to maintaining a vigilant approach to identify potential cases in line with the schools E-Safety Policy and staff behaviour Policy. Safeguarding is not just about protecting children from deliberate harm. For our school it includes such things as pupil safety, bullying, racist abuse and harassment, educational visits, intimate care, children missing education and internet safety.

For the purpose of this policy abuse is defined under 4 categories:

Physical Abuse – this can involve hitting, shaking, throwing, poisoning, kicking, scalding, burning, drowning and suffocating. It can also occur when a parent or carer deliberately causes the ill health of a child to see attention through fabricated or induced illness.

Emotional Abuse – this is where a child's need for love, security, recognition and praise is not met. A parent, carer or authority figure is considered emotionally abusive when they are consistently hostile, rejecting or undermining towards a child or other family members.

Sexual Abuse – this involves forcing a child or young person to take part in sexual activities whether or not the child is aware of what is happening. This may include physical contact both penetrative and non-penetrative or viewing pornographic material including the use of the internet.

Neglect – this is the persistent failure to meet a child's basic physical and/or psychological needs which can significantly harm their health and development.

More detailed information is provided in BSCB "Recognition and Referral Handbook" 2014

- All members of staff are aware of the signs and symptoms of abuse.
- All members of staff are aware that a child may display a range of symptoms and that these may have other causes.
- All members of staff will maintain an objective and non-judgemental approach when considering symptoms but will remember that their first priority is the protection of the child.
- Unless the initial concerns are related to sexual abuse or fabricated illness they will always be discussed with parents / carers and their explanations / comments will be noted.

Further information can be found in the DfE document *What to do if you're worried a child is being abused? 2015*.

Dealing with Suspected Abuse / Allegations of Abuse

The school is committed to fulfilling its responsibilities by treating any suspected or alleged abuse seriously, objectively and sensitively.

This includes instances where it is alleged that any member of staff, volunteer or supply staff has:

- Behaved in a way that has harmed a child, or may have harmed a child.
- Possibly committed a criminal offence against or relating to a child.
- Behaved towards a child or children in a way that indicates that he or she may pose a risk of harm to children.
- Behaved or may have behaved in a way that indicates that they are not suitable to work with children.

Whilst we recognise that school is not the employer of supply staff, we will ensure that allegations are dealt with properly. Under no circumstances will school cease to use a supply teacher due to a safeguarding concern without finding out all of the facts and liaising with the LADO to determine a suitable outcome.

The school governors will discuss with the supply agency whether it is appropriate to suspend the supply teacher or redeploy them to another part of the school whilst an investigation is carried out.

The Designated Safeguarding lead in school will take the lead in gathering the information required by the LADO.

The supply teacher will be advised to contact their union or a colleague for support.

The school will inform supply agencies of the processes used for managing allegations, this will include inviting the agencies HR manager or equivalent to meeting and keeping them up to date with information about schools policies.

Any suspicion or disclosure of abuse must be reported to the designated senior person immediately to ensure that initial inquiries and records comply with (BSCB) procedures.

- All members of staff must report any concerns to the designated senior person.
- Initial concerns should be discussed with parents / carers by the designated person or member of the SLT, unless they are related to sexual abuse or fabricated illness.
- Full written records of all reported incidents will be produced and maintained, even where there is no need to refer the matter immediately.
- Written information is kept by the Assistant Head Teacher who is the designated officer and kept in a locked cabinet in the Head Teachers office.
- All members of staff will demonstrate great care in distinguishing between fact and opinion when recording suspected incidents.
- The senior designated person will ensure that all records are kept securely, separate from the main children's records.
- All members of staff will ensure that all suspicions and allegations are treated sensitively and confidentially.
- Any child involved in alleged incidents will be comforted and reassured.

In incidents where a child makes an allegation or a disclosure the member of staff concerned **will**:

- Remain calm.
- Listen carefully to all the child has to say.
- Ensure the child is safe, comfortable and not left alone.
- Reassure the child that they are not to blame.
- Ask open questions that will encourage the child to speak in their own words.
- Make any observable judgement
- Not ask leading questions that put words into the child's mouth.
- Not make promises that cannot be kept e.g. promising not to tell anybody else

Dealing With Allegations Against Staff

Any allegation made against any member of school staff will be fully investigated.

- If an allegation is made against a member of staff, the Head Teacher / Interim Deputy Head Teacher as Safeguarding Lead will immediately follow BCSB guidelines and those set out in the Whistle Blowing policy.
- If the allegation is against the Head Teacher, the Chair of Governors will be notified and he will follow the above procedures.
- The local Authority Designated Officer will be contacted for further advice as required.

Referring Allegations to Child Protection Agencies

- If the senior designated person has reasonable grounds to believe that a child has been, or is in grave danger of being, subject to abuse, the following procedure will be implemented, in line with (BSCB) procedures.
- Contact will be made, at the earliest opportunity, with the local social services department.
- The senior designated person will communicate as much information about the allegation and related incidents as is consistent with advice from the social services and the police.
- At all times the safety, protection and interests of the children concerned will take precedence. The school will work with and support parents / carers as far as they are legally able.
- All members of staff will assist the social services and the police, as far as they are able, during any investigation of abuse. This will include disclosing written and verbal information and evidence and may require attendance at case conferences.

Supporting Victims / Witnesses of Abuse

We recognise that children who are abused or witness violence may find it difficult to develop a sense of self-worth. They may feel helpless, humiliated and guilty. At school their behaviour may be challenging and defiant or they may be withdrawn. We understand that

school may be the only predictable element in the lives of children at risk and as such, the school will endeavour to support the pupil, in accordance with any agreed child protection plan, through:

- The content of the curriculum
- The school mission statement which promotes a positive, supportive and secure environment and gives pupils a sense of being valued.
- The school Behaviour Policy which is aimed at supporting vulnerable pupils. The school will ensure that the pupil knows that some behaviour is unacceptable but they are valued and not blamed for any abuse which has occurred.
- Establishing effective relationships, and liaison with other agencies that support the pupil such as social services, child and adult mental health service, education welfare service and educational psychology service.
- Notifying social services if there is an unexplained absence of more than two days for any pupil who is on the child protection register.
- Ensuring that, where a pupil with safeguarding concerns leaves, their information is transferred to their new school immediately and that the child's social worker is informed.

Recognising that children come from multi-cultural backgrounds and developing policies that ensure we embrace:

- Diversity in religion and faith
- Diversity of race
- Diversity of ethnicity
- Diversity of gender and sexual orientation
- The disability equality duty

This policy is to be used in conjunction with the Bury Safeguarding Procedures for Schools (2014) which outlines procedures and meetings for TAF (Team around the Family), CIN (Children in Need) and Child Protection.

Additional Information and Guidance

The following Safeguarding issues are all considered to be Child Protection issues and should be referred immediately to the most relevant agency.

Some members of our communities hold beliefs that may be common within particular cultures but which are against the laws of England. Park View Primary School does not condone practices that are illegal and which are harmful to children. Examples of particular practices are:

Forced Marriage

Park View Primary School does not support the idea of forcing someone to marry without their consent.

Underage marriage

In England, a young person cannot legally marry until they are 16 years old (without the consent of their parents or carers) nor have sexual relationships.

Genital Mutilation/Female Circumcision

This is against the law yet for some communities it is considered a religious act and cultural requirement. It is illegal for someone to arrange for a child to go abroad with the intention of having her circumcised. If any of the above areas of concern is brought to the attention of a Park View Primary School staff member they will report these concerns to the appropriate agency in order to prevent this form of abuse taking place.

Ritualistic Abuse

Some faiths believe that spirits and demons can possess people (including children). What should never be considered is the use of any physical or psychological violence to get rid of the possessing spirit. This is abusive and will result in the criminal conviction of those using this form of abuse even if the intention is to help the child.

Children Missing Education

Children are best protected by regularly attending school where they will be safe from harm and where there are professionals to monitor their well-being. At Park View Primary School we will encourage the full attendance of all of our children at school. Where we have concerns that a child is missing education because of suspected abuse, we will liaise with the appropriate agency including our Attendance Office to effectively manage the risks and to prevent abuse from taking place.

Sexually Active under Eighteen years old

It is acknowledged by those working with young people that most young people under the age of 18 will have an interest in sex and sexual relationships. The protocol for Sexually Active Young People under 18 years old has been designed to assist those working with children and young people to identify where these relationships may be abusive, and the children and young people may need the provision of protection or additional services. At Park View Primary School we will ensure our policy for managing this issue links to the available protocol.

Safeguarding Disabled Children

Disabled children have exactly the same human rights to be safe from abuse and neglect, to be protected from harm and achieve the Every Child Matters outcomes as non-disabled children.

Disabled children do however, require additional action. This is because they experience greater risks and '*created vulnerability*' as a result of negative attitudes about disabled children and unequal access to services and resources, and because they may have

additional needs relating to physical, sensory, cognitive and/or communication impairment (*Safeguarding Children, DCSF, July 2009*).

Park View Primary School will ensure that our disabled children are listened to and responded to appropriately where they have concerns regarding abuse. In order to do this we will ensure that our staff and volunteers receive the relevant training to raise awareness and have access to specialist staff in the event they have concerns regarding abuse of a child.

Honour Based Violence

Honour based violence 'is a crime or incident, which has or may have been committed to protect or defend the honour of the family and/or community'. It is important to be alert for signs of distress and indications such as self-harm, absence from school and truancy, infections resulting from female genital mutilation, isolation from peers, being monitored by family, not participating in school activities, unreasonable restrictions at home. Where it is suspected that a child/young person is at risk from Honour based violence Park View Primary School will report these concerns to the appropriate agency in order to prevent this form of abuse taking place.

Trafficked Children

Child trafficking involves moving children across or within national or international borders for the purposes of exploitation. Exploitation includes children being used for sex work, domestic work, restaurant/sweatshop, drug dealing, shoplifting and benefit fraud. Where Park View Primary School is made aware of a child suspected of or actually being trafficked/exploited we will report our concerns to the appropriate agency.

Domestic Abuse

The Government defines domestic abuse as **"Any incident of threatening behaviour, violence or abuse (psychological, physical, sexual, financial or emotional) between adults who are or have been intimate partners or family members regardless of gender or sexuality."**

Staff need to understand what is required to them if children are members of the household where domestic abuse is known or suspected to be taking place. Our policy includes action to be taken regarding referrals to the Police and Children and Young People's Services and any action to be taken where a member of staff is the alleged perpetrator or victim of domestic abuse. At Park View Primary School we will follow our safeguarding policy and report any suspected concerns regarding Domestic Abuse to the relevant agency.

Private Fostering

Private fostering is an arrangement made between the parent and the private foster carer, who then becomes responsible for caring for the child in such a way as to safeguard and promote his/her welfare.

A privately fostered child means a child under the age of 16 (18 if a disabled child) who is cared for and provided with accommodation by someone other than:

- A parent
- A person who is not a parent but has parental responsibility
- A close relative
- A Local Authority

For more than 28 days and where the care is intended to continue. It is a statutory duty for us at Park View Primary School to inform the Local Authority where we are made aware of a child or young person who may be subject to private fostering arrangements.

Child Exploitation and E-Safety

Children and young people can be exploited and suffer bullying through their use of modern technology such as the internet, mobile phones and social networking sites. In order to minimise the risks to our children and young people Park View Primary School will ensure we have in place appropriate measures such as security filtering, and an acceptable use policy linked to our E Safety Policy.

We will ensure that all members of staff are aware of how not to compromise their position of trust in or outside of the school and are aware of the dangers associated with social networking sites.

Our E Safety Policy clearly states that mobile phone or electronic communications with a student at our school is not acceptable other than for approved school business e.g. coursework, mentoring. Where it is suspected that a child is at risk from internet abuse or cyber bullying we will report our concerns to the appropriate agency.

Anti-Radicalisation and Extremism (The Prevent Duty)

At Park View Primary School we recognise our duty to have "due regard to the need to prevent people from being drawn into terrorism". This is our duty under Section 26 of the Counter-Terrorism and Security Act 2015 and the statutory guidance in The Prevent Duty DfE document June 2015.

The DSL and Deputy DSL are aware of local procedures for making a Prevent Referral

Radicalisation – refers to process by which a person comes to support terrorism and extremist ideologies associated with terrorist groups.

Extremism – is defined by HM Government as 'vocal or active opposition to fundamental British values, including democracy, the rule of law, individual liberty and mutual respect and tolerance of different faiths and beliefs; and/or calls for the death of members of our armed forces, whether in this country or overseas'.

In this school we recognise that safeguarding against radicalisation and extremism is no different from safeguarding against any other vulnerability.

Our curriculum promotes respect, tolerance and diversity. Children are encouraged to share their views and to understand that they are entitled to have their own different beliefs which should not be used to influence others.

Citizenship helps to provide pupils with the knowledge, skills and understanding to prepare them to play a full and active part in society. Pupils learn about democracy, government and how laws are made and upheld. Pupils are also taught about the diverse national, regional, religious and ethnic identities in the United Kingdom and the need for mutual respect and understanding.

We recognise that children with low aspirations are more vulnerable to radicalisation and therefore we strive to equip our pupils with confidence, self-belief, respect and tolerance as well as setting high standards and expectations for themselves.

Children are taught about how to stay safe when using the internet and are encouraged to recognise that people are not always who they say they are online. They are taught to seek adult help if they are upset or concerned about anything they read or see on the internet.

Staff Training

The designated Safeguarding lead will undertake Prevent Awareness training and will be able to provide advice and support to members of staff on protecting children from the risk of radicalisation. All staff received Prevent training in 2018.

Refer to Safeguarding Training File and Summary

The above list is not exhaustive and as new policy guidance and legislation develops within the remit of Safeguarding we will review and update our policies and procedures as appropriate and in line with the Bury Safeguarding Children Board and Local Authority.

Related Policies: *Recruitment and Selection, Staff Behaviour, E-Safety, Whistleblowing, Anti –Bullying, Equality, Health and Safety and Managing Allegations. Safeguarding Procedures.*

Related documents: *Single Central Record.*

Date: September 2020

Review date: September 2022 or as legislation requires.