



Knuzden St Oswald's Church of England Primary School

Child Protection Policy Summary for Parents

What is the Child Protection Policy?

At St Oswald's, we have a responsibility for the care, welfare and safety of the children in our school. We have a Child Protection Policy, which outlines the school's responsibilities and duties in terms of safeguarding. This is in place to ensure that children are protected from harm, both at school and outside of school.

The full policy can be found on our school website under key information/policies, or by using this link:

What is a Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL)?

The Designated Safeguarding Lead takes the lead on all safeguarding matters within the school. At St Oswald's, this is Mrs Gray, the Headteacher. We have four deputy Designated Safeguarding Leads, who support with safeguarding concerns. These are Mrs Price, Mrs Mensah, Mrs Travis and Mrs Marshall. Most are members of the Senior Leadership Team.

We listen to our pupils and take seriously what they tell us. We use our Christian Values to guide us in behaving appropriately, but take a zero tolerance approach to anyone badly treating or abusing others in any way. All of our staff are trained in safeguarding matters and children are aware that they can talk to any adult if they ever have any concerns. We look to support our children and families in any way we can.

How do we keep children safe?

We create a safe learning environment and ensure children know who they can talk to if they are upset or worried about anything. However, our staff will make clear to all pupils that we cannot keep anything a secret. If staff have concerns, the children will know they have a duty to pass the information on. We also provide opportunities for children to develop their understanding of risks and keeping themselves safe, through education on online safety and our PSHRE curriculum.

We are committed to keeping our pupils safe. Any concerns are reported to a Designated Safeguarding Lead who will then take any necessary action to ensure the well-being and safety of children. All staff have a role in safeguarding our pupils. It is everyone's responsibility.

Our first priority is your child's welfare and we will usually discuss with you any concerns we have about your child, and we encourage you to do the same so that together, we can provide the best level of support for your child. However, there might be occasions when we have to provide information to, or consult with other agencies such as Children's Social Care before we contact you.

What puts children at risk?

There are four main forms of abuse. These can be summarised as:

Physical Abuse: causing physical harm to a child, such as hitting, shaking, throwing, inducing illness etc

Emotional Abuse: Maltreatment of a child affecting their emotional development. It may involve conveying to a child that they are worthless, unloved or inadequate. Some level of emotional abuse is involved in all types of maltreatment of a child.

Sexual Abuse: Forcing or enticing a child to take part in sexual activities. This may involve physical contact or non-contact activities such as involving children in looking at sexual images or grooming a child (including via the internet)

Neglect: An inability to meet a child's basic needs, either deliberately, or by omission, impairing a child's development. This may involve a parent/carer failing to provide adequate food or clothing or an inability to protect a child from physical or emotional harm.

All of these types of abuse can be perpetrated in different ways, either from an adult to a child, or a child to a child, through direct means or indirect contact. We will often seek advice about concerns from our local Safeguarding Team at Lancashire, before deciding what action needs to be taken. In some cases, we are obliged to act on the instructions of other agencies, such as Children's Social Care or the Police.

How is information used?

Confidential records are kept of any safeguarding concerns and information is shared on a need to know basis. We are notified by the Police, under the Operation Encompass initiative if they attend any incidents involving domestic abuse in a household where the child attends our school, whether the child was present at the time or not.

We follow the procedures laid down by Lancashire County Council which means that on occasion we have to consult other agencies. We would always try to discuss concerns with parents and carers before referrals are made, unless we feel that such a move may be contrary to a child's welfare, for example if we felt that the child was at risk of significant harm.

If a child changes school, the individual child's file will be passed on to the receiving school with all notes and documentation to safeguard the child.

Should you have any concerns about the welfare of a child, please contact Mrs Gray via the school office on 01254 667222.