



Red Marsh School

learn care challenge share

SAFEGUARDING VULNERABLE ADULTS POLICY

This policy **must** be read in conjunction with Red Marsh School Child's Protection Policy 2022.

Purpose

Every day, abuse of adults at risk goes unreported. Those involved with educating and caring for our young adults in school have a duty of care to follow procedures to safeguard and to report suspected abuse.

Definition of 'vulnerable adults'

Some adults aged eighteen and over due to age, disability, illness or lifestyle may not be able to protect themselves against significant harm or exploitation.

Context

Red Marsh School caters for pupils from age 2 – 19, all of whom have Education Health Care Plans for learning difficulties and additional needs. The safeguarding procedures for the pupils in our care, including those between the ages of 18 and 19, is clearly set out in Red Marsh School's 'Whole School Policy for Safeguarding and Child Protection'. Once a pupil turns 18, they become a vulnerable adult. The way concerns are logged within school remains the same as per the Child Protection Policy, however the way concerns are reported by the Designated Safeguarding Lead changes. These changes can be found below, within the 'Who to Tell' section. Should they wish to, staff can also report concerns for vulnerable adults directly, following the same procedures. Additionally, this policy serves to help staff to identify abuse for vulnerable adults.

Designated Safeguarding Leads

Jenny Slater, Head teacher
Sarah Holyhead
Tess Taylor

Identifying abuse

Abuse occurs when someone's human and civil rights are violated by someone else. This can be:

- a single or series of actions of abuse
- deliberately or unknowingly causing harm
- failure to protect people from abuse

Anyone can abuse and often it can be the person you least expect. Abusers could include:

- spouse/partner
- carers and care workers
- family member/relative
- friend
- neighbour
- volunteer helper
- someone not known to the person

See Red Marsh School's 'Whole School Policy for Safeguarding and Child Protection' for further information and definitions on types of abuse.

Things to look out for:

- possible changes in the person's behaviour or mood/personality



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- unexplained injury or a series of injuries
- signs of fear or distress
- signs of neglect
- theft, fraud or unexplained financial worries

Who to tell

It is the responsibility of the Designated Safeguarding Lead in school to report concerns for vulnerable adults in our care. Staff members with a safeguarding concern may also report through these channels.

According to guidance from Lancashire County Council you can report abuse in the following ways:

Reporting abuse on line

If you are a professional and suspect abuse use the [safeguarding alert form for professionals](#). This can be accessed via the following link:

https://lancashire-self.achieveservice.com/service/Lancashire_Safeguarding_Adults_Process?F.Name=CZKJHjDpme2&HideToolbar=1

Adult Social Care Services

Telephone **0300 123 6721**

Lancashire Police

Telephone **0845 1 25 35 45**

Health or social care staff

For example, a social worker, nurse, doctor, occupational therapist

You can also tell someone you trust. Ask them to report the matter for you.

If you are in immediate danger or you think a criminal act is being committed contact the police by calling **999**.

What you can expect to happen next

If you tell health or social care staff, they will:

- take your concerns seriously
- make sure that the person is safe
- help the person to get medical treatment, if needed
- involve the police if a crime is suspected
- involve other staff to investigate and protect the person being abused

When you report a suspected abuse, you do not have to give your name, but if you do, it will not be given to the people involved.

All suspected incidents of abuse will be investigated fully and appropriately.