

The Friends of St Margaret's School Safeguarding Policy.

Definition of Safeguarding Children:

“Safeguarding is the action that is taken to promote the welfare of children and protect them from harm. Safeguarding means:

- protecting children from abuse and maltreatment
- preventing harm to children's health or development
- ensuring children grow up with the provision of safe and effective care
- taking action to enable all children and young people to have the best outcomes.”

(www.nspcc.org.uk)

The Friends will risk assess all of its own events and provide guidance to volunteers which is appropriate to each event. Events may fall into either regulated or non-regulated categories.

Examples of activities that are not regulated include:

- Helping at a school disco
- Helping at a second-hand uniform sale
- Helping at the summer fair
- Serving refreshments at a nativity.

Examples of activities that are regulated could be:

- Running a weekly after school club (unsupervised)
- Running a film club (unsupervised)
- Listening to children reading in school on a weekly basis (unsupervised)

Currently, none of The Friends' events fall into the category of *regulated* activity. Consequently, DBS checks are *not* required for volunteers at Friends' events.

Responsibility for children at Friends' events:

Children at Friends' events remain the responsibility of their parents/carers at all times. For example, it would not be the responsibility of The Friends to supervise toilet visits or the consumption of snacks and drinks. We do not always record which adult is responsible for which child at events. Neither can The Friends be responsible for the whereabouts of children at events. Not all events require a parent/carer for each individual child: for example it is entirely permissible for a parent/carer to be in charge of a group of children on behalf of other parents.

Our commitment:

The Friends will always aim to support the school's commitment to:

- Establishing and maintaining "an ethos where children feel secure, are encouraged to talk, and are listened to."
- Knowing that "abuse is a whole-school issue, and the responsibility therefore of the entire school community."

(St Margaret's Child Protection within Safeguarding Policy & Guidance.)

Reporting disclosures, allegations, suspicions or other concerns about a child's welfare:

If a volunteer is concerned, for any reason, about a child's welfare they should report it **without delay** to any school member of staff, for the attention of the school's designated safeguarding lead.

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