

THRILOW SCHOOL PTA

Safeguarding Policy

Introduction

This policy sets out the principles for safeguarding within Thriplow School PTA. It is relevant to all within the association and is endorsed by the committee of Thriplow School PTS. It will be reviewed annually to ensure that it remains appropriate to the Organisation and its volunteers needs annually.

Responsibility

Parent Teacher Associations (PTAs) have a duty of care to consider the safety of children and vulnerable adults. This should be taken into consideration when risk assessing a PTA event and the duration of such events.

The health and safety of all children is of paramount importance. Parents send their children to school each day with the expectation that school provides a secure environment in which their children can flourish. In order to do this, a wide range of measures and policies are put in place by Thriplow Primary School. These are all available to view on the school website. The PTA support and abide by these policies.

The Thriplow Primary School Safeguarding Policy is updated on an annual basis and approved by the Governing Body.

The Designated Safeguarding Leader (DSL) is Mrs Lucy How. The Governor responsible for safeguarding is Alistair Gray.

The school may provide training for PTA members on safeguarding and the procedures to follow or the PTA may arrange their own training for its volunteers.

Thriplow Primary School PTA will ensure that we prioritise child safeguarding at every event that is held. We will complete a risk assessment which will be reviewed and approved by the school. This risk assessment will consider the safeguarding element.

All members of the PTA that visit school during the working day will adopt and follow school policies for signing in at the school office and other safeguarding procedures.

All PTA members are aware that any concerns regarding events they witness or are concerned about should be raised with the PTA Chairs and DSL immediately. It is crucial that PTA members recognise the importance of sharing information confidentially. Support will be offered if needed.

First Aid arrangements will be included as part of the risk assessment for any event. Should a child be injured or taken unwell during an event. The Lead PTA member will liaise with school staff to agree whether a parent/carer needs to be contacted to advise or collect the child or whether further medical attention is required.

Safeguarding and volunteer checks

PTAs have a duty of care to consider the safety and well-being of children and vulnerable adults, so the PTA make sure this is considered when risk assessing any event.

Who can be checked?

Not all people who have contact with children are required to have a DBS check. It will depend on how often they have contact with children and whether that contact is considered regulated activity.

How do we ask for a DBS check?

Ask at the school office for a volunteering pack. There is an online application form and details of the Identification paperwork which needs to be supplied.

What to do if you have concerns about a child

You may have concerns about a child because of something you have seen or heard or a child may choose to disclose something to you.

If a child discloses information to you, you should:

- Listen to the child without displaying shock or disbelief
- Accept what is said and reassure the child, do not make promises that you may not be able to keep , e.g. 'Everything will be alright now'
- Do not ask leading questions and do not interrogate the child – this is not your responsibility to investigate
- Explain to the child what you have to do next and who you have to talk to
- Take notes, if possible, or write up the conversation as soon as possible afterwards
- Contact the school safeguarding officer or a member of the school leadership team as soon as possible

Guidance for Events:

- All Events should be risk assessed
- Events where children are dropped off and collected – a register should be available and children should be checked in and out of the event. The PTA should have a list of any child being collected by another parent/carer or travelling home alone
- Contact details for the child's parent/carer may be collated by the PTA for the event
- Exits should be monitored to ensure children cannot leave an event unattended
- If this is a regulated activity the volunteer will need an Enhanced DBS check.

Safeguarding is the primary concern of all events organized

This policy will be reviewed by the Thriplow School PTA committee annually before the AGM.

Useful Links

<https://www.parentkind.org.uk/Info-sheets/Volunteer-checks>

Signature	
Signed by	Meghan Bonner
Role	PTA Chair
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