

Westley Child Protection Procedures

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Our designated safeguarding staff

		
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Aim

1. Schools and their staff form part of the wider safeguarding system for children. Everyone who comes into contact with children and their families and carers has a role to play in keeping them safe. To fulfil this responsibility effectively, all professionals must ensure their approach is child-centred. This means that they must always consider what is in the best interests of the child.
2. These procedures are for all staff, parents, governors, volunteers and the wider school community. They form part of the safeguarding arrangements for our school. They should be read in conjunction with the trust's [policies](#) on safeguarding, safer recruitment and selection, staff code of conduct, health and safety and acceptable use of ICT, and the school's policies on behaviour (including the anti-bullying strategy and approach to physical intervention) and educational visits policy. They should also be read in conjunction with Keeping Children Safe in Education (Department for Education, September 2020). Safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children is defined in Keeping Children Safe in Education as:
 - a. protecting children from maltreatment
 - b. preventing impairment of children's mental and physical health or development

- c. ensuring that children grow up in circumstances consistent with the provision of safe and effective care
- d. taking action to enable all children to have the best outcomes

Expectations

- 3. All staff and volunteers must sign to confirm they have read and agree to these procedures before they start working with us. All children and their families will be provided with these procedures before enrolment. It is important for families to be aware of actions staff may take if there are any concerns for a child's safety, and for them to understand that they might not be consulted before action is taken. Knowing about child protection procedures ahead of time helps parents to engage better in the process, meaning that change is more likely to take place.
- 4. All adults working in our school who have contact with pupils are in positions of trust. Staff and volunteers should understand their responsibilities to safeguard and promote the welfare of pupils, including through early help. This means that staff and volunteers:
 - a. are responsible for their own actions and behaviour and must avoid any conduct which would lead any reasonable person to question their motivation or intentions
 - b. must work, and be seen to work, in an open and transparent way
 - c. must acknowledge that deliberately invented/malicious allegations are extremely rare and that all concerns should be reported and recorded
 - d. must discuss and/or take advice promptly from their line manager if they have acted in a way which may give rise to concern
 - e. must apply the same professional standards regardless of culture, disability, gender, language, racial origin, religious belief or sexual orientation
 - f. must not consume or be under the influence of alcohol or any substance, including prescribed medication, which may affect their ability to care for children
 - g. must be aware that breaches of the law and other professional guidelines could result in disciplinary action being taken against them, criminal action and/or other proceedings including barring by the Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) from working in regulated activity, or for acts of serious misconduct prohibition from teaching by the Teaching Regulation Agency (TRA).

Early help

- 5. Early help means providing support as soon as a problem emerges, at any point in a child's life. Providing early help is more effective in promoting the welfare of children than reacting later.
- 6. At Westley, we place an emphasis on early interventions. Our aim is to identify any concerns or issues at the earliest possible opportunity and remove any barriers to learning which may be preventing our pupils from reaching their potential. We strive to develop positive relationships with pupils and their families. Our whole school approach to pastoral care recognises the individual circumstances of our pupils and families in order to meet their needs.

Our Early help offer includes;

- Weekly pupil drop in
- Lunch club for vulnerable pupils
- Monthly Young Carers drop in
- Good relationship with PMHW providing termly parent workshops/seminars (Anxiety management, confidence and self esteem, building resilience)
- Clear internal referral system for 1:1 pastoral support
- Targeted group work when the needs arise
- Timely referrals to outside agencies to support the YP if needed (Children's services, Parenting support, Wellbeing, Diversion Programme, School nursing team)

What to look out for (recognising children who are experiencing or at risk of harm)

7. Children can be harmed in several ways; abuse can be physical, sexual, emotional or it can take the form of neglect (see [Part 1 of Keeping children safe in education \(September 2021\)](#)). Children sometimes suffer more than one type of abuse at a time. Children as well as adults can be abusers; peer on peer abuse will never be tolerated or passed off as “banter”, “just having a laugh” or “part of growing up” (see [Sexual violence and sexual harassment between children in schools and colleges](#)). Protecting children from the risk of radicalisation is part of our wider safeguarding duties (see [The prevent duty: for schools and childcare providers](#)), and is similar in nature to protecting children from other forms of harm and abuse.

Online safety

8. It is essential that children are safeguarded from potentially harmful and inappropriate online material. We adopt whole school approaches to online safety to protect and educate pupils, students and staff in their use of technology and establish mechanisms to identify, intervene and escalate concerns as appropriate.
9. At Westley Middle School, we are committed to educating children to be responsible users of technology and the internet, including how to be safe online. This can only be achieved with close partnership between home and school.

E-safety/Online Safety is about ensuring that learners can access the technologies and resources they need without putting themselves at risk personally or financially. It's about a learning provider making sure that learners, staff and all their stakeholders know how to keep safe while using technology and resources.

E-safety/Online Safety can include topics such as cyber-bullying, mobile phone technology, preventing identity theft, privacy, social networking sites and child protection.

Using the Internet responsibly is now a significant part of many lessons. All students will look at issues relating to safety using the Internet in ICT lessons, and issues involving cyber-bullying in PSHE/assemblies.

Schools have a statutory duty to monitor their digital environment in order to identify any potential threats to pupil's welfare and wellbeing. All school owned devices will be

continuously monitored for safeguarding risks. If pupils and staff use a school owned device outside of school, the device will continue to be monitored when it is both online and offline.

Mobile Phones - In order to protect everyone from potential cyber bullying and inappropriate images being taken and posted online, the school does not allow the use of mobile phones unless in an emergency. Parents must sign the disclaimer before pupils are allowed to bring their phones to school. It then remains in their locked locker until the end of the school day.

How to respond

10. If you have a concern about a child's wellbeing, based on:
 - a. something the child or their parent has told you
 - b. something another child has told you
 - c. something you have noticed about the child's behaviour, health, or appearance
 - d. something another professional said or did

Pass all concerns immediately to the Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL) or a Deputy DSL if they are not available.

11. Even if you think your concern is minor, the Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL) may have more information that, together with what you know, represents a more serious worry about a child. It is never your decision alone how to respond to concerns – but it is always your responsibility to share concerns, no matter how small.
 - a. **Do not investigate** but decide whether you need to clarify your concerns by asking the child or parent open questions (beginning with words like who, how, why, what, where and when) and being careful not to lead them. **Do not discuss your concerns with the parent(s) if this may increase the risk to the child.**
 - b. If you have heard a disclosure of abuse or are talking with a child or parent about your concerns, let them know what you will do next. For example, 'I am worried about your bruise and I need to tell Mrs Smith so that she can help us think about how to keep you safe.'
 - c. **Inform the DSL immediately.** If the DSL is not available, inform a Deputy DSL. If none of the designated safeguarding staff or headteacher are available, you must make the referral yourself. Details of how to do this are at the end of these procedures.
 - d. As soon as possible after the event, make a written record using our online CPOMS system or use the recording form. Recording forms are available in the staffroom or liaise with one of our DSLs. If there was a disclosure, record the words of the child or parent rather than your interpretation. Include analysis of what you saw or heard and why it is a cause for concern.
12. Any member of staff is entitled to report a safeguarding concern directly to the local authority if they do not feel able to refer the matter to the DSL. Details of how to do this are at the end of these procedures.

Who to pass concerns on to

13. Names, photos and contact details for the DSL, Deputy DSL(s), Designated Teacher for looked-after and previously looked after children, Safeguarding Governor, Headteacher, Chair of the local governing body and relevant trust Director of Education are provided at the

beginning of these procedures. Details of how to make a referral to the local authority are at the end.

Concerns about another adult in the school

14. Safeguarding concerns about another adult in the school that may meet the harms threshold set out below, must be referred to the Headteacher (or whoever is fulfilling the role in their absence) without delay. If the concerns are about the Headteacher (or a relative of the Headteacher working at the school) they must be referred to the relevant trust Director of Education. They will contact the Local Authority Designated Officer (LADO) within one working day in respect of all cases that may meet the harms threshold, i.e. in which it is alleged that a person who works with children has:

- a. Behaved in a way that has harmed a child, or may have harmed a child;
- b. Possibly committed a criminal offence against or related to a child;
- c. Behaved towards a child or children in a way that indicates they may pose a risk of harm to children; or
- d. Behaved or may have behaved in a way that indicates they may not be suitable to work with children.

If you feel your concern has not been responded to appropriately, please contact the Trust Lead on Safeguarding (swatts@unitysp.co.uk)

15. Low level concerns that do not meet the harms threshold set out above, should be reported to the DSL (or a Deputy DSL in their absence). If they are about the DSL, they should be reported to the Headteacher. If they are about the Headteacher (or a relative of the Headteacher working at the school), they should be reported to the Director of Education. If they are about a member of the trust central team, they should be reported to the Trust Lead on Safeguarding. All low level concerns will be recorded in writing by the person to whom they are reported. The record should include details of the concern, the context in which the concern arose, action taken and the rationale for decisions. The DSL will share details of all low level concerns reported to them with the Headteacher. Similarly, the Headteacher will share details of all low level concerns reported to them about the DSL with the Director of Education

16. The term 'low level' concern does not mean that it is insignificant. A low level concern is any concern – no matter how small, and even if no more than causing a sense of unease or a nagging doubt – that an adult working in or on behalf of the school may have acted in a way that is inconsistent with the staff (and persons in a position of trust) code of conduct, including inappropriate conduct outside of work, but that does not meet the harms threshold for referral to the LADO. Examples of such behaviour could include, but are not limited to:

- being over friendly with children;
- having favourites;
- taking photographs of children on their mobile phone;
- engaging with a child on a one-to-one basis in a secluded area or behind a closed door; or,

- using inappropriate sexualised, intimidating or offensive language.

Such behaviour can exist on a wide spectrum, from the inadvertent or thoughtless, or behaviour that might look inappropriate but might not be in specific circumstances, through to that which is ultimately intended to enable abuse. Sharing, recording and dealing with low level concerns appropriately not only keeps children safe but also protects those working in or on behalf of schools.

Whistleblowing

17. If you are concerned about poor or unsafe practice or potential failures in the school's safeguarding regime, these should be raised with the Headteacher or the Chair of the local governing body, in the first instance. Please refer to the Trust's [whistleblowing policy](#)
18. The [NSPCC Whistleblowing Advice Line](#) is available for those who do not feel able to raise concerns regarding child protection failures internally. You can call: 0800 028 0285. This line is available from 8:00 to 20:00, Monday to Friday or email: help@nspcc.org.uk.

Reviewing these procedures

19. These procedures are reviewed at least annually and approved by the local governing body. Copies of these procedures and supporting materials, such as Keeping Children Safe in Education (Department for Education, September 2021), are available in the staffroom and on the school's website. Hard copies may be requested from the school office.

Contact details for the local authority

20. To seek advice before making a referral to the local authority contact the Professional Consultation Line 03456061499
21. To make a referral to the local authority contact Customer First 08088004005 or use the link <https://earlyhelpportal.suffolk.gov.uk/web/portal/pages/home>