



Safeguarding policy information for parents

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At Dovedale Primary school we follow all policies and procedures necessary for keeping children safe.

At our school, Mrs Houseman, Mrs Tomlinson and Miss Martin are all designated safeguarding leads (DSLs). Mrs Tomlinson and Miss Martin act as deputy leads.

Claire Kudryk is our family liaison officer.

Designated safeguarding lead and deputy designated safeguarding lead roles and responsibilities

A member of the senior leadership team is appointed to the role of designated safeguarding lead to take lead responsibility for safeguarding and child protection (including online safety). This is Mrs Houseman in our school.

The designated safeguarding lead co-ordinates Dovedale's safeguarding and child protection arrangements by providing advice and support to other staff on child welfare, safeguarding and child protection matters, including Stopping Domestic Abuse Together (SDAT) notifications, takes part in strategy discussions/meetings and inter-agency meetings – and/or supports other staff to do so - and contributes to the assessment of children.

Dovedale school also has 2 deputy designated safeguarding leads to cover for when the designated safeguarding lead is not available; the lead responsibility however remains with the designated safeguarding lead.

Safeguarding and Child Protection Policy Statement

Dovedale Primary School operates a whole school approach and ethos to safeguarding and protecting children. Where safeguarding is concerned, we maintain an attitude of *"it could happen here"*. We recognise that everyone in the school has a role to play to keep children safe; this includes identifying concerns, sharing information, and taking prompt action. Safeguarding and child protection is incorporated in all relevant aspects of processes and policy development. All systems, processes and policies operate with the best interests of a child at their centre.

We ensure that all children are safeguarded while on or off school premises and are proactive about anticipating and managing risks that children face in the wider community and online. To support this the school assesses the risks and issues in the wider community when considering the well-being and safety of its learners. DSLs in school keep an awareness of risk due to the local context of our school

All staff receive training regularly and we always act in the best interests of the child.

Our Child protection and Safeguarding policy details the guidelines and actions we will follow to keep children safe.

These include:

- Providing safe environments, with secure access, where children can learn and develop
- Acting in the best interests of children to protect them online and offline, including when they are receiving remote education
- Identifying children who may need early help, and who are at risk of harm or have been harmed. This can include, but is not limited to, neglect, abuse (including by other children), grooming or exploitation
- Taking timely and appropriate safeguarding action for children who need extra help or who may be suffering, or likely to suffer, harm. This includes, if required, referring in a timely way to those who have the expertise to help
- Using safe recruitment processes and managing allegations that may meet the harm threshold and allegations/concerns that do not meet the harm threshold, referred to as low-level concerns

Systems for children to report concerns and abuse

Our school recognises the importance of ensuring that all children feel heard and understood. We have a culture of listening to children and taking account of their wishes and feelings in any measures the school may put in place to protect them. Whenever there are any concerns, the child's wishes will be taken into account when determining what action to take and what services are provided. The welfare and safety of a child is of paramount concern and staff will act in the best interests of the child.

We understand the difficulties that children may have in approaching staff about their circumstances and any concerns they may have. Some children may feel unable to report their concerns or abuse, others may have additional barriers to telling someone or not recognise what is happening is abusive.

The school has an open and accepting attitude towards children and promotes a positive and supportive environment as part of our responsibility for pastoral care. Our school ethos promotes trusted relationships between learners and all staff which supports children to tell staff about any concerns they may have.

Children, parents/carers, and all staff will be free to talk about any concerns and see the school as a safe place. Many children can show signs or act in ways they hope adults will notice or react to, others may make indirect reports via a friend or staff may overhear conversations. All staff are alert to this and to

the potential need for early help and are aware of the indicators of abuse, exploitation and neglect and know what actions they should take.

The school has systems in place for children to complain and/or confidently report their concerns, including any form of abuse or neglect, including child-on-child abuse, and know that their concerns will be treated seriously. Our systems for reporting are age-specific and take account of SEND. As part of PSHE lessons with familiar teachers, we explain to children how they can report a concern safely to a staff member and that their concerns will be taken seriously, they can safely express their views and give feedback. *At Dovedale School we have a safeguarding display clearly visible to the children which tells children who they can talk to and general information about safeguarding.*

Working with parents and carers

We recognise the importance of working together with parents/carers to educate as well as safeguard and promote the welfare of children.

Dovedale Primary School will ensure that:

- We work with parents positively, openly and honestly
- Parents are encouraged to discuss their issues or concerns about safety and welfare of children, including any worries about a child's emotional well-being or mental health. They will be listened to and taken seriously
- Parents/carers are aware there is a whole school safeguarding approach to ensure that children are kept safe and well, and as part of this the school is part of the Stopping Domestic Abuse Together (SDAT) initiative (the local version of Operation Encompass)
- We will provide parents with information about safeguarding issues, such as child exploitation (sexual and criminal) known as child at risk of exploitation (CRE), child-on-child abuse, emotional well-being/mental health, online safety, including sharing nudes and semi-nudes, harmful sexual behaviour, and terrorist/extremist material. We will also outline the support available to keep children safe within the school, locally and nationally
- Up to date and accurate information is kept about pupils/students i.e.
 - names and contact persons with whom the child normally lives
 - those with parental responsibility
 - where reasonably possible, we hold more than one emergency contact number
 - if different from above, those authorised to collect the child from the setting
 - name and contact details of GP
 - any relevant court orders or any other factors which may impact on the safety and welfare of the child
- Information about our learners given to us by children themselves, their parents, or carers or by other agencies will remain confidential. Staff will be given relevant information on a 'need to know' basis in order to support the child
- It is made clear to parents and carers that the school has a duty to share information when there are any safeguarding concerns. Also, that there is a duty to keep records which relate to safeguarding work by the school, or partner agencies. These will be kept securely, kept apart from the main pupil/student record and only accessible to key members of staff. Copies of these records will be securely sent to any education provider to which the child transfers and a confirmation of receipt obtained
- Where we have reason to be concerned about the welfare of a child, we will always seek to discuss this with the child's parents or carers first. However, there may be occasions where we are not able to do this, for example, when by doing so, it places the child at additional risk or where it may not be possible to speak to the parents/carers