

Policy Statement

We recognise our moral and statutory responsibility to safeguard and promote the welfare of all children.

We make every effort to provide a safe and welcoming environment underpinned by a culture of openness where both children and adults feel secure, able to talk and believe that they are being listened to.

We maintain an attitude of “it could happen here” where safeguarding is concerned.

The purpose of this policy is to provide staff, volunteers and governors with the framework they need in order to keep children safe and secure in our school and to inform parents and guardians how we will safeguard their children whilst they are in our care.

Specific guidance is available to staff within the procedure documents. This document also takes into consideration DFE guidance in ‘Keeping Children Safe in Education.’

INTRODUCTION

All children have a right to be protected from abuse.

A child is considered to be abused or at risk of abuse when the basic needs of the child are not being met through avoidable acts of either commission or omission. This includes neglect, physical injury, emotional, and sexual abuse. Child abuse can involve children of all ages from all cultures, all religions and all social classes.

POLICY

At Saxon Wood we all share a commitment to:

- Provide a safe environment for pupils to learn and develop
- Provide an environment where pupils feel confident that they can approach a member of staff for help if needed
- Be observant and alert to signs and symptoms of suspected abuse
- Have clear procedures and lines of communication
- Work closely with parents and other agencies
- Monitor pupils at risk
- Provide child protection training regularly to all staff
- Use the curriculum to raise pupils’ awareness and self-esteem.

What constitutes abuse?

There are four main categories of abuse:

Neglect

The persistent or severe neglect of a child, or the failure to protect a child from exposure to any kind of danger, including cold or starvation, or extreme failure to carry out important aspects of care, resulting in the significant impairment of the child's health or development, including non-organic failure to thrive.

Physical Abuse

Actual or risk of physical injury to a child, or failure to prevent physical injury (or suffering) to a child including deliberate poisoning, suffocation and fabrication or induction of illness.

Sexual Abuse

Actual or risk of sexual exploitation of a child or adolescent.

Emotional Abuse

Actual or risk of severe adverse effect on the emotional and behavioural development of a child caused by persistent or severe emotional ill- treatment or rejection.

Staff within the school have access to information to support them to be able to recognise and report signs, indicators or risks of radicalisation, child sexual exploitation or female genital mutilation. The DSL will follow the established recording and referral processes including the use of SERAF forms for suspected exploitation.

PROCEDURES

If a pupil volunteers information about abuse to a member of staff, it may sometimes be done obliquely rather than directly. An abused child is likely to be under severe emotional stress, and the staff member may be the only adult whom the child is prepared to trust. When information is offered in confidence, the member of staff will need to display tact and sensitivity in responding to the disclosure. The member of staff will need to reassure the pupil, and retain his/her trust, while explaining the need for action which will necessarily involve other adults being informed. If a pupil discloses abuse, they should not have to repeat the information to different people, wherever possible.

Details of information given by the pupil must be recorded in writing as soon as possible, at the latest within 24 hours. The record should include what the pupil and adult said. Staff should be careful not to question or inadvertently make a judgement.

Role of the Designated Safeguarding Lead

Every school has a Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL). At Saxon Wood this is currently the Head Teacher and the Deputy Head Teacher. We also have an NHS Associate Practitioner who can also monitor and report any concerns with regards to child protection. Saxon Wood has a designated governor responsible for Child protection.

It will be the DSL's duty to:

- Act as the focal point for reference and advice to staff
- Be the first line of discussion of reported concerns from staff
- Liaise and advise with the nurse or other staff on any matters in respect of reported or suspected abuse
- Monitor any child where concerns have been raised

- Monitor children on the Child Protection Register
- Provide training to all staff on procedures to be followed in cases of child abuse
- Provide information to all staff on the identification of child abuse.

Procedures

1. Whenever a member of staff has reason to suspect that a pupil has suffered abuse, or is at risk of suffering abuse, the DSL (or Deputy Head Teacher in the absence of the DSL) must be informed.
2. The DSL will discuss the suspicion with the member of staff, and decide whether to contact Social Services. If it is decided to contact Social Services then the Duty Social Worker will be told:
 - the known facts and background information
 - any suspicions or allegations
 - whether or not there has been any contact with the child's family.

The Duty Social Worker will inform the child's Social Worker who, if appropriate, will discuss and advise the school on the next step(s) to be taken. The school should not contact the parents. The DSL will also inform the Education Welfare Service.

If it is decided that the matter should be monitored internally and not reported, then the DSL will decide the extent of this monitoring in conjunction with the nurse and other key staff.

3. Should the disclosure or suspicion of abuse involve a member of staff, the Head Teacher must be informed who will liaise with the County CP Co-ordinator and EPS and jointly decide whether to suspend the member of staff pending the outcome of the investigation.
4. If a further investigation is required, then the pupil may need to be taken offsite for a medical examination and/or interview with a Police Officer. The school would wish to be helpful with regard to providing wheelchair transport and a responsible adult, but will require time to organise this if it is required.

Pupils with communication difficulties may need a familiar adult to ensure that they are able to communicate with other adults involved in any investigation.

5. If, following an investigation and a Child Protection Conference, a pupil is considered to be at risk of further abuse, then the DSL will decide which school staff need to be aware of this. Normally the whole of the class team, the health staff and the Deputy Head Teacher would be expected to be informed, as a minimum.

RELATED DOCUMENTS

Safeguarding Policy
Safer Recruitment Policy

This Policy was agreed by Governors

Signed
Chair of Governors and will be reviewed annually or earlier as required.

cppolpro