

Safeguarding at Sharrow School – Information for Parents/carers

What is safeguarding?

Schools have a **statutory** responsibility to keep children safe from harm. The National Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children (NSPCC) defines safeguarding as:

- 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
- Having a designated safeguarding lead (DSL) who is trained to support staff, contribute to assessing children and liaising with other agencies

What are schools expected to do?

Schools must comply with the current safeguarding guidance from the Department for Education, called Keeping Children Safe in Education. This means, for example:

- Having a designated safeguarding lead (DSL), who is trained to support staff, contribute to assessing children and liaise with other agencies
- Having a child protection policy, and procedures covering specific safeguarding issues
- Ensuring that adults working in the school are safe to work with children, by carrying out background checks (through the Disclosure and Barring Service) and having someone on interview panels who is trained in 'safer recruitment'
- Ensuring that all staff receive safeguarding and child protection training, and that this is regularly updated

What does safeguarding look like in our school?

- We protect information about your child and only share it appropriately
- We respond appropriately to an unplanned absence, to a pattern of poor attendance or punctuality issues / late collections from school
- We track concerns about children confidentially
- We teach pupils about safeguarding issues, including how to respond to concerns they have, in lessons on personal, social, health and economic (PSHE) education and we also teach them about online safety
- The DSL at Sharrow School is Evelyn Abram, Headteacher. The Deputy DSL is Steven Edwards, Deputy Head.

Key Terms

Abuse - abuse is a form of maltreatment of a child. Somebody may abuse or neglect a child by inflicting harm or by failing to act to prevent harm

Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) check - a certificate of checks carried out on those working with children and vulnerable people. Those who work regularly with children require a more in-depth DBS check

Safer recruitment - recruiting staff using thorough checks on their suitability to work with children, including the right to work in the UK, and mental and physical fitness to carry out their responsibilities

Frequently Asked Questions

Who should I speak to for more information, or if I have a safeguarding concern?

You can speak to any member of staff, but we recommend that your first point of contact is your child's teacher or our DSL, Evelyn Abram, Headteacher.

Who should my child speak to if he/she has a concern?

Your child can speak to any trusted adult in school. The adult will refer to the DSL if there is a concern about the safety of the child.

How can I access more relevant information or policies?

Many of our policies are available on our website. There are paper copies of all our Safeguarding policies in a file in the main entrance to the school - please ask the Office Team.

External Sources

Keeping children safe in education: statutory guidance for schools and colleges, Department for Education

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/keeping-children-safe-in-education--2>

Safeguarding children: what organisations need to do to protect children from harm, NSPCC

<https://www.nspcc.org.uk/preventing-abuse/safeguarding/>

Safeguarding Sheffield Children Board

<http://www.safeguardingsheffieldchildren.org/sscb>