

## **Wallscourt Farm Academy Safeguarding Statement**

### **Updates in documentation:**

In July 2016, the DfE updated the statutory guidance on safeguarding.

Full guidance, *Keeping Children Safe in Education* at:

[https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/526153/Keeping\\_children\\_safe\\_in\\_education\\_guidance\\_from\\_5\\_September\\_2016.pdf](https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/526153/Keeping_children_safe_in_education_guidance_from_5_September_2016.pdf)

### **Key contacts:**



**Miss Weaver, Principal – Designated Safeguarding and Child Protection Officer**



**Ms Kelham, Early Years Leader – Deputy Designated Safeguarding and Child Protection Officer**

### **Overview:**

- At Wallscourt Farm Academy we believe that Safeguarding Children and Young People is of paramount concern and we are clear that this is a shared responsibility for everyone within and beyond the school.
- All staff may raise concerns directly with Children's Social Care services
- We are committed to ensuring that every child is individually supported, within and beyond our school community.
- We work closely with families and carers to enable us to support all our learners in the most effective way and share key information
- We offer support and guidance to all those involved in the lives of our pupils.

*For the best interest of all our children, we have in place a wide range of Safeguarding measures. These are details briefly below.*

## **Leadership and management of Safeguarding**

We have identified members of staff and governors who are responsible for ensuring that Safeguarding principles, procedures and processes are working highly effectively. These include the Principal, (DS&CPO) The Early years Foundation Stage Leader (DDS&CPO) and a member of our Academy Council.

The Academy Council monitors and evaluates Safeguarding practice within the school. An annual audit and report will be produced and shared with the CLF Board. Information will be shared with the Local Authority as required. We work closely with other agencies to enable us to meet our Safeguarding responsibilities and beyond.

## **DBSs and Vetting**

CLF and WFA follow the National and Local guidance relating to Disclosure and Barring Service and checks. Volunteers checks are required for those who have regular and unsupervised access to children and young people. We do, on occasion follow a robust risk assessment and rationale, regarding one off visitors who will be working alongside children in a supervised manner. We work closely with others, including colleges, universities and supply agencies to ensure we have all the necessary documentation for adults working in school.

## **Single Central Record or Register**

We follow the guidance for our single central register as detailed in *Safeguarding children and safer recruitment in education*. (See link)

CLF hold a single employer SCR and as an Academy we keep the key information required.

The SCR includes details for:

- All staff who are employed to work at the school.
- All staff who are employed as supply staff to the school
- All others who work in regular contact with children; this covers volunteers, governors who also work as volunteers within the school
- People brought into the school to provide additional teaching or instruction for pupils but who are not staff members; for example, a specialist sports coach or artist.

For all visitors not included on the single central register, we require them to sign in and out and wear a visitor badge. Where unsupervised access to children is likely – for example, visiting local authority staff we check their proof of identity.

## **Safer Recruitment and Induction**

We follow the statutory information relating to Safer Recruitment. We have a safeguarding statement included in all adverts that are places for new recruitments to work at Wallscourt Farm Academy. Part of our Induction procedures includes sharing key policies and procedures relating to Safeguarding.

## **CPD**

We have a rolling programme of Continuing Professional Development relating to Safeguarding, Child Protection and Health and Safety. This includes First Aid and

Administration of Medicines, Child Protection training and Positive Handling guidance and training. We also ensure that all staff are kept informed of the latest guidance, recommendations and statutory responsibilities relating to Safeguarding. We have a robust supervision process in EYFS which ensures the statutory requirements are met, including supervision sessions, appropriate ratios and essential policies are in place including our Acceptable use ICT policy.

### **Cause for concern**

Teachers are asked to report any causes for concern to the Designated Child Protection members of staff or DCPO as identified, using a written proforma. The guidance for this is provided to all members of the school community and displayed in an accessible way in a common area for all staff. Any concerns will be shared with parents/families as early as possible, if appropriate. More often than not there are extremely reasonable explanations for the concern. Concerns may range from children being visibly upset to persistent lateness to children 'disclosing' concerns. We seek advice and guidance from Social Care and other relevant agencies to ensure we are supporting children and families in the best possible way. We also monitor and track children and families who may present as being vulnerable. These records are compiled by the range of adults working with children and families and are stored confidentially.

### **Attendance**

All lateness and absences are recorded by the Office manager. Reasons will be sought for all absence or lateness. We work closely with our Local Authority regarding attendance. Attendance is monitored closely through these systems. Parents will always be informed of concerns around attendance at the earliest point. If attendance concerns continue the school will refer to the Education welfare service. We also have a responsibility to ensure we track children if they move on, and we are obligated to share this information with the Education Welfare Service.

### **School holidays**

We would follow the guidance on attendance and encourage all parents to **NOT** take their children out of school for holidays. Every day of your child's education counts. If holidays during term time are necessary then a leave of absence form needs to be submitted to the Principal for approval. Parents will be asked to discuss the reasons for extended school holidays.

### **FGM**

Female Genital Mutilation is a practice carried out in some cultures. It is **ILLEGAL** in this country. The school has duty of care to all the children to ensure that this practice does NOT occur. If we are concerned that an extended holiday may be used for this practice we will ask for a meeting with parents. If it is still a concern we will refer to Social Care as this is a serious Child Protection issue.

### **Child Sexual Exploitation**

All professionals at Wallscourt Farm Academy are aware of the possible signs of Child Sexual Exploitation and there is a clear culture of monitoring and observing with a safeguarding focus. A list of common signs is included in our Safeguarding and CP policy documentation.

## **Forced Marriage**

This is an entirely separate issue from arranged marriage. It is a human rights abuse and falls within the Crown Prosecution Service definition of domestic violence. Young men and women can be at risk in affected ethnic groups. Whistle-blowing may come from younger siblings. Other indicators may be detected by changes in adolescent behaviours. Never attempt to intervene directly as a school or through a third party.

## **Support for families**

We work with a number of agencies, and we are able to access and signpost to a wide range support networks if needed to support families. Please discuss any needs or concerns with the Principal or your child's class teacher, or another member of staff if you prefer.

Our Inclusion Support team work closely alongside parents to develop effective and meaningful home school links, and to promote Inclusion, Equality and Community Cohesion. These are underpinning principles of the school, and are promoted and upheld by all.

The school tries to be as accessible as possible for families. We hugely value parental/carer involvement in the life of the school. We firmly believe that welcoming parents and carers into our school community, with the necessary Safeguarding procedures in place is a way to ensure the safety and well-being of our pupils. If you are concerned about anything, we would urge you, in the first instance, to always approach the class teacher with any concerns.

The Principal is available for appointments through the office or is happy to follow up any concerns through telephone calls. If any parents/carers are unhappy with a response from school please contact the Principal in the first instance – this can then be followed up with a formal complaint which could be referred to the CLF. Our full complaints policy and procedure is available from school or accessible on the website.

## **Learning and Teaching**

As a school, we have a responsibility to promote and support children's knowledge and understanding of safety and well-being. Pupil voice and partnership in learning is central to the enriched curriculum we offer at Wallscourt Farm Academy. Work with the pupils in each year group takes place to help children develop their understanding of ways to keep safe, healthy and happy. SEAL and PSHE learning, Thrive, Lifelines learning and work across the school related to Rights Respecting and Restorative Approaches all help promote Safeguarding principles within and beyond the classroom.