



Safeguarding Policy

The Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL) is Mrs Erika Anders

anderse@mayfield.portsmouth.sch.uk or 07908 676756

if she is unavailable contact Jo Buck

buckj@mayfield.portsmouth.sch.uk

Mayfield School fully recognises its responsibilities for child protection.

Our policy applies to all staff, governors and volunteers working in the school. There are five main elements to our policy:

- Ensuring we practice safe recruitment in checking the suitability of staff and volunteers to work with children.
- Raising awareness of child protection issues and equipping children with the skills needed to keep them safe.
- Developing and then implementing procedures for identifying and reporting cases, or suspected cases, of abuse.
- Supporting pupils who have been abused in accordance with his/her agreed child protection plan.
- Establishing a safe environment in which children can learn and develop.

We recognise that because of the day to day contact with children, school staff are well placed to observe the outward signs of abuse. The school will therefore:

- Establish and maintain an environment where children feel secure, are encouraged to talk, and are listened to.
- Ensure children know that there are adults in the school whom they can approach if they are worried.
- Include opportunities in the PSHE curriculum for children to develop the skills they need to recognise and stay safe from abuse.

We will follow the procedures set out by the Local Safeguarding Children Board and take account of guidance issued by the Department for Education and Skills: Keeping children safe in education- Statutory guidance for schools and colleges (September 2016) to:

- Ensure we have a designated safeguarding lead for safeguarding who has received appropriate training and support for this role.
- Ensure other senior staff have the appropriate training to support the designated officer when needed.
- Ensure we have a nominated governor responsible for safeguarding.
- Ensure every member of staff (including temporary and supply staff and volunteers) and governing body knows the name of the designated safeguarding lead responsible for safeguarding and their role.

- Ensure all staff and volunteers understand their responsibilities in being alert to the signs of abuse and responsibility for referring any concerns to the designated safeguarding lead responsible for safeguarding.
- Ensure that parents have an understanding of the responsibility placed on the school and staff for safeguarding by setting out its obligations in the school prospectus.
- Notify social services if there is an unexplained absence of more than two days of a pupil who has a Child Protection Plan.
- Develop effective links with relevant agencies and co-operate as required with their enquiries regarding safeguarding matters including attendance at case conferences.
- Keep written records of concerns about children, even where there is no need to refer the matter immediately.
- Ensure all records are kept securely, separate from the main pupil file, and in locked locations.
- Continue to review and follow procedures where an allegation is made against a member of staff or volunteer.
- Ensure safe recruitment practices are always followed.
- Ensure that where a child and family would benefit from co-ordinated support from more than one agency there will be an inter-agency assessment, led by a trained lead professional.

We recognise that children who are abused or witness violence may find it difficult to develop a sense of self-worth. They may feel helplessness, humiliation and some sense of blame. The school may be the only stable, secure and predictable element in the lives of children at risk. When at school their behaviour may be challenging and defiant or they may be withdrawn. The school will endeavour to support the pupil through:

- The content of the curriculum.
- The school ethos which promotes a positive, supportive and secure environment and gives pupils a sense of being valued.
- The school behaviour policy which is aimed at supporting vulnerable pupils in the school. The school will ensure that the pupil knows that some behaviour is unacceptable but they are valued and not to be blamed for any abuse which they may have experienced.
- Liaison with other agencies that support the pupil such as social services, Child and Adult Mental Health Service, Educational Psychology Service, etc.
- Ensuring that, when a pupil who has a Child Protection Plan leaves, their information is transferred to the new school immediately and that the child's social worker is informed.

Approved by Governors on 23/11/16