

Governors and Head Teacher's Safeguarding Statement

The Curriculum

Our most important mission is to educate children well and challenge them in their learning in order that they aspire. Caring and safeguarding are therefore more than just making children safe. They also entail developing an understanding of emotional resilience, developing curiosity and fostering discipline. That is why our PRIDE values; Pride, Resilience, Independence, Determination and Excellence are at the core of our values and school ethos. It is also why the development of mental toughness, personal strength and determination are important pillars in maintaining child protection. Anything less fails to safeguard their future and it is their future that we must safeguard as a priority. Safeguarding is an implicit part of the curriculum and is demonstrated in the quality of our teaching.

Our ethos has always been and remains child centred – ‘A happy and purposeful atmosphere where children are always put first’.

Employee Vetting and Annual Training

Caring for all of the children in our care carries significant responsibility. Our fundamental mission is to educate young people to be prepared for the world in which they will develop as adults. We strive to do this in a safe and secure environment, free from intimidation and in a climate of mutual respect so that children are confident in their ability to express themselves.

We make sure that all staff are caring, suitably qualified professionals and we have detailed safeguarding procedures in place to not only deter individuals who may put child safety at risk but keep a central vetted and cleared record of all employees, volunteers and other school visitors, e.g. contractors. All employees are aware of the essential transparent nature of our work and we invite early concerns in this area however small. The annual training programme for staff regularly and consistently includes important aspects related to our duty of care.

Health and Safety

Our facilities are well maintained and our site team work hard to uphold the very best standards in health and safety protocols so that our physical environment is as good as it can be. We monitor our environment and the learning climate continuously and are on a constantly improving journey to provide the very best for our pupils and staff.

Statutory Duty

Under the Education Act 2002 (Section 157 for academies/free/independent schools), schools must make arrangements to safeguard and promote the welfare of our children.

Parents/carers should know that the law (Children Act 1989) requires all school staff to pass on information which gives rise to a concern about a child's welfare, including risk from neglect, physical, emotional or sexual abuse. Staff will seek, in general, to discuss any concerns with the parent/carer and, where possible, seek their consent to make a referral to 'Children & Families First' (CFF) if that is considered necessary. This will only be done where such discussion will not place the child at increased risk of significant harm. The school will seek advice from CFF when they have reasonable cause to suspect a child may be suffering or likely to suffer significant harm. Occasionally, concerns are passed on which are later found to be unfounded. Parents/carers will appreciate that the school's Designated Safeguarding Lead/s carry out their responsibilities in accordance with the law and acts in the best interests of all children in our care.

All of these important contributions demonstrate our commitment to the highest level of safeguarding.