



SAFEGUARDING POLICY 2020-2021

**This policy should be read in conjunction with
Child Protection Policy and the current Dept of Education
Guidance**

- 1. Guidance for full reopening of schools 2020**
- 2. Actions for Early Years and Childcare providers
(Coronavirus)**
- 3. Actions for schools during coronavirus outbreak**

**(Please note the schools in the Footprints Federation will
constantly update their risk assessments and procedures in
line with weekly Government updates to Coronavirus)**

Signed on behalf of Governors _____ Date _____

Adopted Date: September 2020

Review Date: September 2021

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1. INTRODUCTION

Safeguarding is 'everyone's responsibility'. This policy sets out the Footprints Federation responsibilities under the Children Act 2004 to ensure children, young people and adults at risk are kept safe from harm.

Terminology:

Safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children refers to:

- protecting children from maltreatment<sup>[L]
[SEP]</sup>
- preventing impairment of children's health or development<sup>[L]
[SEP]</sup>
- ensuring children are growing up in circumstances consistent with the provision of safe and effective care

The aim of **safeguarding** is to enable children to have optimum life chances and to enter adulthood successfully.

What's the difference between Safeguarding and Child Protection?

Safeguarding is an 'umbrella' term that incorporates child protection.

Child Protection is the process and activities undertaken to fulfill statutory obligations to protect specific children who have been identified as suffering, or at risk of significant harm. All agencies and individuals should proactively **safeguard and promote** the welfare of children so that the need for action to protect children from harm is reduced.

This policy is available on the school website.

2. PRINCIPLES AND AIMS

Our Principles:

- The welfare of children, and their wishes and feelings are afforded consideration when developing and carry out school activities [L] [SEP]
- All children will have equal rights to support and protection irrespective of their race, age, ability, gender, language, religion, sexual orientation and culture [L] [SEP]
- All staff and volunteers have a professional role to identify and respond to the needs of children and report any concerns immediately [L] [SEP]

We aim:

- To provide all staff (employed, contracted and visiting) with the necessary [L] [SEP] information / training to enable them to meet their statutory responsibilities to [L] [SEP] promote and safeguard the wellbeing of children [L] [SEP]
- To provide parents, carers and children with information about the schools [L] [SEP] arrangements to keep children safe. [L] [SEP]
- To ensure safe and consistent best practice across the school [L] [SEP]
- To demonstrate the school's commitment with regard to safeguarding children [L] [SEP]

3. FRAMEWORK

This policy has been devised in accordance with the following legislation and guidance.

Arrangements for Managing Allegations of Abuse Against People Who Work With Children or Those Who Are in A Position of Trust.

Disqualification under the Childcare Act 2006^[1]^[SEP] statutory guidance for local authorities, maintained schools, independent schools, academies and free schools, DfE (February 2015)
www.gov.uk/government/publications/disqualification-under-the-childcare-act-2006

Education Act 2002^[1]^[SEP] **Section 175** - requires local education authorities and the governors of maintained schools and further education (FE) colleges to make arrangements to ensure that their functions are carried out with a view of safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children.

Section 157 and the Education (Independent Schools Standards) (England) Regulations 2003 - require proprietors of independent schools (including academies and technology colleges) to have arrangements to safeguard and promote the welfare of children who are pupils at the school.

Guidance for Safer Working Practice, Safer Recruitment Consortium (September 2015)

Information Sharing: Advice for practitioners, DfE (March 2015)

Keeping Children Safe in Education, DfE (2020)

Sexual Offences Act, HM Government (2003)

Teachers' Standards 2012, DfE (2011)^[1]^[SEP] These standards set the minimum requirements for teachers' practice and conduct. Teachers, including Headteachers should safeguard children's wellbeing and maintain public trust in the teaching profession as part of their professional duties.

What to do if you're worried a child is being abused, DfE (2018)^[1]^[SEP] Non statutory advice which helps everyone who works with children to identify abuse and neglect and take appropriate action. Ask the School Office for a hard copy.

Working Together to Safeguard Children: A guide to inter-agency working to safeguard and promote the welfare of children, DfE (2019)

4. RELEVANT ASSOCIATED POLICIES

In order to safeguard and promote the welfare of children, this policy should also be read in conjunction with other associated policies to ensure the safety and wellbeing of children.

Anti-Bullying [L]
[SEP]

Attendance [L]
[SEP]

Positive Relationships and Behaviour [L]
[SEP]

Child Protection [L]
[SEP]

Complaints Policy [L]
[SEP]

Confidentiality [L]
[SEP] Policy

Educational Visits Policy

On line -safety /Acceptable Use Policy

Health and Safety including site security [L]
[SEP]

Data Protection Policy

Intimate Care [L]
[SEP] Policy

Managing Allegations [L]
[SEP] Bradford Policy

First Aid Policy

GDPR Policy

Manual Handling [L]
[SEP]

Prevent

Safer Recruitment

Safe Working Practice [L]
[SEP] Bradford Policy

DSEN [L]
[SEP] Code of Conduct

Staff Behaviour/Code of Conduct and Whistle-blowing

5. SAFEGUARDING THEMES

Anti-Bullying

The Footprints Federation recognises the right of our children and young people to develop with confidence in an environment that is safe and free from the emotional and physical distress that can be seen as a result of bullying. It is the responsibility of the Footprints Federation to ensure that procedures are in place that will monitor and address anti-bullying issues. There is a more detailed Anti-Bullying Policy available on the school website and a hard copy is available from the School Office .

Attendance

In accordance with the School's Attendance Policy, absences are rigorously pursued and recorded. The school, in partnership with the appropriate agencies, takes action to pursue and address all unauthorised absences in order to safeguard the welfare of children and young people in its care. We implement the statutory requirements in terms of monitoring and reporting children missing education (CME) and off-rolling and understand how important this practice is in safeguarding children and young people.

Coronavirus Addendum - The Footprints Federation will follow Government Education Status Guidance Aug 2020 and submit daily attendance data to assist the Government to gain a national picture of attendance in educational provision and to assist monitoring the impact of the virus, and ensure children are safe.

Child Protection

There is a detailed Child Protection Policy operating within the school. A copy will be provided to parents on request and is available on the school website. It is the Governing Body's duty to ensure the policy is reviewed annually and any deficiencies within the policy addressed immediately.

All Child Protection concerns will be managed in accordance with the Bradford Safeguarding Children's Board / safeguarding partners (Bradford local authority, chief officers of police, and clinical commissioning groups) Children's Services telephone number **01274 435600 Initial contact point 01274 431010 Out of hours Emergency Duty Team**

Contextual Safeguarding

In accordance with Keeping Children safe in Education 2020 the Federation recognises that as well as threats to the welfare of children from within their families, children may be vulnerable to abuse or exploitation from outside their families. E.g at school and other educational establishments, from within peer groups, the wider community and/or online. Staff are also aware that these threats could take a variety of different forms including: exploitation by criminal gangs and organised crime groups such as county lines; trafficking, online abuse; sexual exploitation and the influences of extremism leading to radicalisation.

All Child Protection concerns in relation to individuals identified as vulnerable to contextual safeguarding issues ,extremist ideologies or being drawn into terrorism will be managed in accordance with the Bradford Safeguarding Partnership (Bradford local authority, chief officers of police, and clinical commissioning groups)

Complaints

The Federation has a Complaints Procedure available to parents, pupils and staff who wish to report concerns. This can be found on the school website. All reported concerns will be taken seriously and considered within the relevant and appropriate process. Anything that constitutes an allegation against a member of staff or volunteer will be dealt with under the specific procedures for Managing Allegations Against Staff.

Confidentiality

The School's Confidentiality and Information Sharing Policy is available to parents on request at the School Office.

All staff will understand that safeguarding issues warrant a high level of confidentiality, not only out of respect for the child and staff involved, but also to ensure that information being released into the public domain does not compromise evidence.

Safeguarding information will be stored and handled in line with the Data Protection Act 1998, Keeping Children Safe in Education 2020 and the school GDPR Policy. The DSP will normally obtain consent from the child/parent to share sensitive information with outside agencies. Where there is good reason to do so (e.g. to help to protect a child), the DSP may share information without consent

and will record the reason for this. Safeguarding records are normally exempt from the disclosure provisions of the Data Protection Act, which means that children and parents do not have an automatic right to see them. The School will retain this information on the pupil file and transfer to the next school/archive the information in line with The Education (Pupil Information) (England) Regulations 2005 and The Information and Records Management Society. The school will only share information about children with adults who have parental responsibility for a pupil.

Safeguarding Curriculum

Children are taught to understand and manage risk through our PSHE education and Relationships and Sex Education lessons (Mandatory Sept 2020) and through all aspects of school life.

The school is committed to ensuring that children are aware of behaviour towards them that is not acceptable and how they can keep themselves safe. All children know that we have senior members of staff with responsibility for child protection and they are made aware of whom these persons are. We inform children of whom they might talk to, both in and out of school, their right to be listened to and heard and what steps can be taken to protect them from harm.

Subjects such as Personal, Social and Health Education, including Relationship and Sex Education, discuss relevant safeguarding issues with the children. In addition to this the safeguarding curriculum is supplemented by a programme of visits and workshops from external organisations (NSPCC, Police, Citizenship Programme, Road and Rail Safety, Step 2, The James Project, Police Cyber Team, Bradford Prevent team etc)

Please also refer to the on line safety section of this policy for further details on this topic.

Coronavirus Addendum - Please note that these visits will resume in Autumn 2020 in line with Government guidance - A Coronavirus Visitors to School Risk Assessments will be shared with visitors prior to visits taking place.

On line Safety

We have an On line safety policy which can be found on the school website. Our policy includes how we teach children to stay safe when using the internet in and out of school- including the risks of sharing content and images online and tackling

bullying, including cyber bullying. Cyber-bullying by children, via texts and emails, will be treated as seriously as any other type of bullying and will be managed through our anti-bullying procedures.

The School will ensure that appropriate filtering methods are in place to ensure that children are safe from all types of inappropriate and unacceptable materials, including terrorist and extremist material.

Digital images:

The use of digital images in schools is a complex area. The school has a clear and detailed Acceptable Use Policy which covers the taking and use of digital images and video of children and takes steps to ensure that it is understood and enforced.

The school recognises the importance and usefulness of including the children's use of technology within the classroom, such as an iPad. With this brings lots of opportunities for children across all age ranges to explore and learn in an explorative and creative way. The use of a technology item, such as an iPad is likely to have a camera and children will be using the camera as part of their learning experience. However the use of iPad's and other tablet equipment can also present risks if children are left to use the equipment in an unsupervised environment. It is therefore understood that the school will ensure that all usage of iPad's within the school will be supervised by an adult at all times.

Staff and children sign ICT Acceptable Use Policy. For staff this includes a section on the use of digital images and clarification about the position regarding the use of personal mobile phones/cameras for taking pictures. The same rules apply to visitors and volunteers who are supporting school staff.

Health and Safety

We have a Health and Safety Policy, which demonstrates the consideration we give to minimising any risk to the children when on the school premises and when undertaking activities out of school under the supervision of our staff. At all times there has to be appropriate staffing levels and when off-site, appropriate and agreed pupil / adult ratios are maintained. The lead adult always assesses visits/trips as to the level of risk and all trips are finally authorised by the EVC and the Head teacher.

Our school has lone working risk assessments in place and procedures for staff where there is a security risk due to the need to work alone; staff at high risk will

receive appropriate training. A copy of the Health and Safety Policy is available from the School Office.

Inclusion and Diversity

Some children may be at increased risk of neglect and or abuse. Many factors can contribute to an increase in risk, including prejudice and discrimination, isolation, social exclusion, communication issues and reluctance on the part of some adults to accept that abuse can occur.

Our school ethos promotes and accepts the differences between all children and adults. In practice this is about ensuring inclusion of individuals and treating them fairly and equally, no matter the diversity of their race, gender, age, disability, religion or sexual orientation.

Promoting equality and diversity in education is essential for both teachers and children. The aim is to create a classroom environment where all children can thrive together and understand that individual characteristics make people unique and not 'different' in a negative way.

In line with Keeping Children Safe in Education (DfE 2020), we ensure that all of our pupils receive equal protection, we will also give special consideration to additionally vulnerable groups (as outlined in our Child Protection Policy), for example children with disabilities or special educational needs. Special consideration is also given in the provision of safeguarding information and resources in accessible formats for children and adults with communication needs.

Managing Allegations Against Staff, Supply Teachers and Volunteers

Our aim is to provide a safe and supportive environment, which secures the well-being and very best outcomes for the children at our school. We do recognise that sometimes the behaviour and actions of adults may lead to an allegation of abuse being made.

Allegations sometimes arise from a differing understanding of the same event, but when they occur they are distressing and difficult for all concerned. We also recognise that many allegations are genuine and there are some adults who deliberately seek to harm or abuse children.

We will take all possible steps to safeguard our children and to ensure that the adults in our school are safe to work with children. We will always ensure that the

procedures outlined Part 4 of 'Keeping Children Safe in Education', DfE (2020) are adhered to and will seek appropriate advice from the Local Authority Designated Officer (LADO).

Partnership with Other Services

Our school recognises that it is essential to establish positive and effective working relationships with other agencies that are partners of the Bradford Safeguarding Partnership (Bradford local authority, chief officers of police, and clinical commissioning groups) There is a joint responsibility on all these agencies to share information to ensure the safeguarding of all children.

Partnership with Parents

The Footprints Federation is committed to working in partnership with parents/carers to safeguard and promote the welfare of children and to support them to understand our statutory responsibilities in this area.

The school shares a purpose with parents to educate, keep children safe from harm and have their welfare promoted. We are committed to working with parents positively, openly and honestly. The Footprints Federation will share with parents any concerns we may have about their child unless to do so may place a child at risk of harm. We encourage parents to discuss any concerns they may have with

Mrs A Vinnicombe (Strategic Leader of the Federation and DSL)

Mrs A Campbell (Ingrow Lead DSL)

Mrs S Holdsworth (Long Lee Lead DSL)

Mrs Jo Wilkinson (Glenaire Lead DSL)

Miss P Freeman (Federation Safeguarding Governor)

Safer Recruitment and Selection

Our recruitment process selects, screens, trains and supervises staff and volunteers so that the appointment of unsuitable people can be deterred and rejected from working with children. A copy of the School's Recruitment Policy is available from our website

The Federation has a legal duty to refer to the Disclosure and Barring Service anyone who has harmed, or poses a risk of harm, to a child, or if there is reason to believe the member of staff has committed one of a number of listed offences, and who has been removed from working (paid or unpaid) in regulated activity, or would have been removed had they not left. If these circumstances arise in relation to a member of staff at our school, a referral will be made as soon as possible after the resignation or removal of the individual in accordance with advice from the Local Authority Designated Officer (LADO) and/or HR. Our Federation also adheres to the guidance issued by The Department for Education in 2015 regarding persons who are disqualified under the Childcare Act 2006.

Safer Working Practice

All adults who come into contact with our children have a duty of care to safeguard and promote their welfare. There is a legal duty placed upon us to ensure that all adults who work with or on behalf of our children are competent, confident and safe to do so.

The Teachers' Standards (DfE,2011) are augmented by standards of personal and professional conduct e.g. ethics and behaviour, in and out of school. Teachers are expected to 'uphold public trust in the profession by showing tolerance and respect for the rights of others, not undermining fundamental British values and ensuring that personal beliefs are not expressed in ways which exploit pupils' vulnerability' .

All staff will be provided with a copy of our Federation code of conduct/staff behaviour policy/handbook at induction. These are sensible steps that every adult should take in their daily professional conduct with children. All staff and volunteers are expected to carry out their work in accordance with this guidance and will be made aware that failure to do so could lead to disciplinary action.

Abuse of Position Of Trust:

All school staff and Supply Staff are aware that inappropriate behaviour towards pupils is unacceptable and that their conduct towards pupils must be beyond reproach.

In addition, staff should understand that, under the Sexual Offences Act 2003, it is an offence for a person aged 18 or over intentionally to behave in certain sexual ways in relation to a child aged under 18, where the adult is in a position of trust in respect of the child, even if the behavior is consensual.

Security

The security measures put into place at the Footprints Federation have taken into account the need to balance the need to remain a welcoming environment whilst ensuring the safety of all our children and staff.

The following procedures are in place

Access to buildings:

The school will take all reasonable efforts to control access to the buildings and grounds of the school to prevent unauthorised access to children and ensure the personal safety of staff. The access control procedures for the buildings are:

Ingrow - Press the buzzer on the entrance gate to alert the office to the fact you would like entry.

Long Lee and Glenaire Primary - Secure entry through the office entrance

Visitors, contractors and maintenance personnel:

The control of visitors, contractors and maintenance personnel is a fundamental part of our site security for the safeguarding of both people and property.

Where the Governing Body transfers control or otherwise allows the use of school premises to external bodies (such as sports clubs) or service providers during or out of school hours, we will ensure that these bodies or providers have appropriate safeguarding policies and procedures, and that there are arrangements in place to co-ordinate with the school on such matters. Such considerations will be made explicit in any contract or service level agreement with the bodies or providers.

Appropriate checks will be undertaken in respect of visitors and volunteers coming into school. Visitors will be expected to sign in and out via the school electronic log system and to display a visitors badge whilst on school site. The level of DBS clearance is clearly shown by a green, amber, red, lanyard system - red denoting that a visitor does not have DBS clearance and must be escorted by a member of staff on site at all times

The visitor will also be asked to read and sign the Acceptable Use Policy and will be given the Federation Safeguarding Leaflet. Any individual who is not known or identifiable should be challenged for clarification and reassurance.

The school will not accept the behaviour of any individual (parent or other) that threatens school security or leads others (child or adult) to feel unsafe. Such behaviour will be treated as a serious concern and may result in a decision to refuse access for the individual to the school site.