

What is Safeguarding?

Safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children is defined as:

- Protecting children from maltreatment
- Preventing impairment of children's health or development
- Ensuring that children are growing up in circumstances consistent with the provision of safe and effective care
- And taking action to enable all children to have the best outcomes

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/741315/Keeping_Children_Safe_in_Education_2018_Part_One_14.09.18.pdf

The School and Safeguarding

Schools play a vital role in safeguarding as they are in a position to identify concerns early, provide help for children, and prevent concerns from escalating. All staff within school have a responsibility to provide a safe environment in which children can learn and should be prepared to identify children who may benefit from early help and support social workers and other agencies following any referral.

Schools should have a designated safeguarding lead who will liaise closely with services such as children's social care and will provide support to staff member to enable them to carry out their safeguarding duties.

All staff within school should receive any appropriate safeguarding training and should be made aware of the early help process and the process for making referrals to children's social care and for statutory assessments under the Children Act 1989.

The school's staff induction process should include systems which support safeguarding including: the child protection policy, the staff behaviour policy (or code of conduct) and the role of the designated safeguarding lead.

More information regarding the school's role can be found in 'Keeping Children Safe in Education 2018'

The Local Governing Body and Safeguarding

Governing bodies must ensure that they comply with their duties under legislation. They must have regard to the guidance 'Keeping Children Safe in Education 2018' to ensure that the policies, procedures and training in their schools are effective and comply with the law at all times. They should ensure that there are appropriate policies and procedures in place in order for appropriate action to be taken in a timely manner to safeguard and promote children's welfare. They must also ensure that appropriate safeguarding responses to children who go missing from education are in place.

Local Governing Bodies should appoint a safeguarding link governor; this can be any governor including a member of staff but must be separate from the designated safeguarding lead

(DSL), in order to ensure there is sufficient challenge to the organisation's safeguarding arrangements and performance.

The Role of the Safeguarding Governor

The safeguarding governor should provide a link between the Governing Body, committees and staff of the school regarding aspects of safeguarding. The safeguarding governor should take a strategic approach to monitoring safeguarding arrangements.

Safeguarding governors should make sure that all staff have had the appropriate level of safeguarding training and that this is regularly updated.

The designated governor should hold regular meetings with the DSL in school to support, challenge, monitor and evaluate the schools systems and processes to ensure that they are working.