

St Edward's Church of England Primary School



Safeguarding booklet For parents

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Introduction

At St Edward's C/E Primary School we fully recognise our contribution to Child Protection.

We take very seriously our responsibility to safeguard and promote the welfare of our students and we believe that the safety and wellbeing of our students is of paramount importance and our primary duty.

2002 Education Act (Section 175 Paragraph 10.4) tells us

“It is the responsibility of the Local Authorities and Governing Body to safeguard and promote the welfare of students”

These responsibilities include:

- Having **Designated Senior Members of Staff**
- Having a **Designated Governor** for Child Protection.
- Providing **training for all staff** to ensure that they are alert to the signs and symptoms of abuse and know and understand the procedures to be followed if they have concerns.
- Having a written **Child Protection Policy** and clearly set out procedures.
- Ensuring that all adults who have regular and frequent contact with children have **Disclosure and Barring Service Check (DBS) clearance**.

DBS clearance means that all staff with regular and frequent contact with children have checks carried out on them to verify they do not have a criminal record that would mean they were unsuitable to work with children.

The staff below have made a commitment to take ownership of any concern in school relating to the safety of a child.

Designated Senior Person	Alison Petrie
	01706 631755
Child Protection Staff	Nadine Taylor
	01706 631755
Designated Governor	Jill Smith
	01706 631755
Deputy Head Teacher	Nicola Smith
	01706 631755

If you have any concerns about a student you can report it to one of the people listed above. They will always make themselves available to give advice on child protection matters.

The Single Central Record

All schools must keep and maintain a paper or electronic record of the checks which have been carried out on:

- All staff employed at the school permanent or supply
- Supply staff engaged through an agency
- Any other people who have regular and frequent contact with children at the school

What information should the SCR contain?

- Identity, name, address, date of birth
- Qualifications where these are legally required for the post
- GTC Registration – qualified teachers only
- List 99
- Disclosure and Barring Service Disclosure
- Right to work in the UK
- Overseas checks

Keeping Children Safe in Education, DfE, September 2023

states "all staff should be aware of systems within their school which support safeguarding and these should be explained to them as part of staff induction. This includes: the school's child protection policy; the school's staff behaviour policy (sometimes called code of conduct)"

Everyone who comes into contact with children and their families has a role to play in safeguarding children. School staff are particularly important as they are in a position to identify concerns early and provide help for children, to prevent concerns from escalating.

The very nature of a school facilitates the opportunity for staff to get to know their students very well. It is therefore obvious that schools have a large part to play in keeping students safe and healthy. The Government has made it

extremely clear that we should be proactive in considering the welfare of students in our charge. We cannot say we are only there to teach. Our close working relationship with young people places us in a position of great responsibility as we are in an ideal position to observe their well-being.

Counter Terrorism and Security Act February 2015

We have a statutory duty to work to prevent young people being drawn into terrorism (by reporting and working with others)

Channel – a multi-agency program to identify and support people who are at risk, across England and Wales (how we refer)

How we promote British values and deliver a counter narrative to extremism within and across the curriculum and through the school ethos are also seen as part of safeguarding children.

Safeguarding at St Edward's C/E Primary School

St Edward's C/E Primary School fully recognises its responsibilities for child protection.

There are three main elements to what we do:

Prevention

Establishing a safe environment in which children can learn and develop, ensuring we practice safe recruitment in checking the suitability of staff to work with children and raising awareness of child protection issues and equipping children with the skills needed to keep them safe.

Also under this element we now include our statutory duty to

- work to prevent young people being drawn into terrorism (by reporting and working with others)

Protection

Developing and then implementing procedures for identifying and reporting cases, or suspected cases, of abuse and/or radicalisation. Ensuring that all adults on site are trained and supported to act immediately, appropriately and sensitively where there are concerns about a child.

Support

Support for staff and students that may have been victims of abuse or are struggling as a result of a child protection concern. Support by referring to Channel any young person who may be drawn into extremist activities or in danger of radicalisation. Ensuring multi-agency work is effective and that barriers across agencies are removed.

All staff in school receives training in recognising signs of abuse.

All staff are aware of which staff are designated as Child Protection Officers and the procedures for passing on concerns.

The local authority under section 18 of the Children Act 2004 also has responsibility for ensuring that they meet their specific duties to organise and plan services and to safeguard and promote the welfare of children.

Social workers take a lead role in:

- responding to children and families in need of support and help
- undertaking enquiries following allegations or suspicion of abuse
- undertaking assessments when referrals are made
- holding meetings and child-protection conferences
- court action to safeguard and protect children
- coordinating a child protection plan
- looking after and planning for children in the care of the council
- ensuring that children in care are safeguarded in a foster family, children's home or other placement

Effective Safeguarding

What does this look like?

- ✓ Placing the welfare of our young people as paramount (the most important thing)
- ✓ Supporting young people's rights.
- ✓ Listening to young people.
- ✓ Supportive, open communication between parents and carers.
- ✓ Multi-agency working (school, police, social care services, health workers etc.).

What are the benefits?

- ✓ Safe, happy young people.
- ✓ Promotes a positive ethos.
- ✓ Reduced exclusion and supports inclusion.
- ✓ Raises attainment and achievement.

How is it achieved in school?

- ✓ Any adult that is employed by the school must undergo a Disclosure and Barring Service Check (DBS).
- ✓ All staff have completed training on child protection and the prevent strategy and know what to do if they have a concern.
- ✓ Lead Learning Mentor - Families employed by school.
- ✓ Multi-agency work to intervene as quickly as possible where a child is at risk.
- ✓ Secure site with all visitors having to report to Reception, produce ID and read and accept our Visitor Safeguarding Statement.

St Edward's C/E Visitor and Safeguarding Statement

St Edward's C/E Primary School is fully committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of all students, staff and visitors. I agree to this commitment and will report any safeguarding concerns to a member of staff. I will follow the instructions of staff regarding health and safety matters including procedures for emergency evacuation. I agree and understand that the use of mobile phones in certain areas of the school, mainly classrooms and areas where children are present is not allowed.

If you wish to read our Safeguarding Policy please ask at the school office or read it on the school website.

I will sign out when my visit to the school is completed.

What to do if you are worried about a child?

We understand that sometimes a parent or other member of the school community, outside of the staff, can feel reluctant to get involved in other people's lives for fear of "getting it wrong" and sometimes dismiss what they see and hear as unimportant. A child's safety and wellbeing must be put before any "uncomfortable feelings" people may have - we treat any concern seriously.

If you are concerned, act!

- ✓ Know who the designated people are.
- ✓ Do not be afraid to report anything – no matter however trivial it may seem.
- ✓ Only discuss your concerns with the designated people.
- ✓ Be aware that young people with special needs may be more vulnerable.
- ✓ Abuse can occur in all cultures or social backgrounds.
- ✓ If you think something is wrong with a young person – ask them.
- ✓ You do not have to provide your name or personal details if you wish to remain anonymous.

We will always take the time to discuss any matter concerning a child's safety with you.

What happens next?

- ✓ All concerns are recorded and stored in a secure locked cabinet.
- ✓ The concern may be discussed with the young person if appropriate.
- ✓ Parents are informed of any concerns providing that this does not put the child at further risk.
- ✓ Parents may be invited into school to discuss any concerns.
- ✓ A referral may be made to Children's Social Care (if the child is at risk of harm)
- ✓ Police may be informed.

For more information on signs and symptoms of abuse please refer to

<http://www.nspcc.org.uk/helpandadvice/whatchildabuse>

If you would like to discuss any of the information in this booklet or report a concern about a child, please contact Mrs. Nadine Taylor on 01706 631755 or Dr. Alison Petrie on 01706 631755

What if I am not happy with the response from the designated teacher?

If you still have concerns about a child and you do not feel that they have been dealt with appropriately you have a number of options

- Report your concerns to the Head Teacher
- Report your concerns to Children's Social Care (0300 3030 440)
- Report your concerns to Rochdale Safeguarding Children's Board (0300 303 0350) or rbscb.admin@rochdale.gov.uk
- Report your concerns to the police (0161 872 5050)

What if I have concerns about a member of staff?

Whilst it is important to protect staff against malicious allegations, all concerns and complaints will be treated with **respectful uncertainty**, all evidence recorded and all concerns investigated.

If you believe that any person working with our pupils has

- a) Behaved in a way that has harmed, or may have harmed, a child (any child);
- b) Possibly committed a criminal offence against, or related to, a child (any child); or
- c) Behaved towards a child or children in a way that indicates s/he is unsuitable to work with children.

You must report your concerns immediately to one of the following staff.

Alison Petrie – Head Teacher
Nicola Smith – Deputy Head Teacher

Grooming

You must report any incidences of **any adults** working with children about the following

- Over familiarity with pupils
- Having “favourites”
- Showing or discussing inappropriate material
- Inappropriate use of language
- Giving of gifts
- Taking photographs on mobile phones/other devices/cameras
- Trying to normalise or trivialise any behaviour that you would otherwise be concerned about by being dismissive or jokey

Any of the above could be considered as **grooming**.

Child grooming refers to behaviour deliberately undertaken with the aim of befriending and establishing an emotional connection with a child, to lower the child's inhibitions in preparation for sexual activity with the child, or exploitation.

Grooming can take many months, sometimes years and includes grooming adults around the child, including **you**.

Adult grooming is the adult equivalent to child grooming and applies to any behaviour where an adult is prepared so they unwittingly allow abusive behaviour or exploitation to occur later.

Abusers will always seek to groom the adults/or organisation around the child so it appears that their behaviour is “normal” and thus becomes accepted behaviour for that person/organisation to allow people to dismiss any prickle of concern because they become used to and regard such behaviour as “its only....they always behave like....there’s nothing to it....Which confirms to the abuser that the grooming of the adults/organisation has worked and they are now able to seek out opportunities to abuse children.

Developed world research suggests that eighty-five percent of child sexual abuse is perpetrated by somebody well known to the child. **Never think “It can’t be, I don’t believe they would”**

You must report any concerns **immediately** to the staff below.

Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE)

As you are aware Rochdale has been at the centre of child sexual exploitation cases which have resulted in lengthy prison sentences for the perpetrators. In these cases the exploitation originated from businesses that children have easy access to (for example fast food places and taxis, *although* we are certainly not saying that all fast food outlets or taxi firms employ child abusers).

What we are saying, is that, parents and members of the community need to be alert to any places/business to which children may be attracted. Places where children/young people are hanging about or talk from any young people about any place which give you, as adults, cause for concern.

Anywhere that children are being given alcohol, cigarettes (and/or drugs) where adults are involved are wholly unsafe and we should be questioning the motivation of such adults who wish to be involved with children.

You can speak about your concerns in confidence to

Alison Petrie - Head Teacher

Nicola Smith – Deputy Head Teacher

Nadine Taylor – Pastoral Manager - Families

School number 01706 631755

Definitions of abuse

Abuse: a form of maltreatment of a child. Somebody may abuse or neglect a child by inflicting harm, or by failing to act to prevent harm. They may be abused by an adult or adults or another child or children.

Physical abuse: a form of abuse which may involve hitting, shaking, throwing, poisoning, burning or scalding, drowning, suffocating or otherwise causing physical harm to a child. Physical harm may also be caused when a parent or carer fabricates the symptoms of, or deliberately induces, illness in a child.

Emotional abuse: the persistent emotional maltreatment of a child such as to cause severe and adverse effects on the child's emotional development. It may involve conveying to a child that they are worthless or unloved, inadequate, or valued only insofar as they meet the needs of another person. It may include not giving the child opportunities to express their views, deliberately silencing them or 'making fun' of what they say or how they communicate. It may feature age or developmentally inappropriate expectations being imposed on children. These may include interactions that are beyond a child's developmental capability as well as overprotection and limitation of exploration and learning, or preventing the child participating in normal social interaction. It may involve seeing or hearing the ill-treatment of another. It may involve serious bullying (including cyber bullying), causing children frequently to feel frightened or in danger, or the exploitation or corruption of children. Some level of emotional abuse is involved in all types of maltreatment of a child, although it may occur alone.

Sexual abuse: involves forcing or enticing a child or young person to take part in sexual activities, not necessarily involving a high level of violence, whether or not the child is aware of what is happening. The activities may involve physical contact, including assault by penetration (for

example rape or oral sex) or non-penetrative acts such as masturbation, kissing, rubbing and touching outside of clothing. They may also include non-contact activities, such as involving children in looking at, or in the production of, sexual images, watching sexual activities, encouraging children to behave in sexually inappropriate ways, or grooming a child in preparation for abuse (including via the internet). Sexual abuse is not solely perpetrated by adult males. Women can also commit acts of sexual abuse, as can other children.

Neglect: the persistent failure to meet a child's basic physical and/or psychological needs, likely to result in the serious impairment of the child's health or development. Neglect may occur during pregnancy as a result of maternal substance abuse. Once a child is born, neglect may involve a parent or carer failing to: provide adequate food, clothing and shelter (including exclusion from home or abandonment); protect a child from physical and emotional harm or danger; ensure adequate supervision (including the use of inadequate care-givers); or ensure access to appropriate medical care or treatment. It may also include neglect of, or unresponsiveness to, a child's basic emotional needs.

Radicalisation - signs to look for

The child's views become increasingly extreme regarding another section of society or government policy. They are observed downloading, viewing or sharing extremist propaganda from the web. They become withdrawn and focused on one ideology. The individual becomes increasingly intolerant of more moderate views. The individual may change their appearance, their health may suffer (including mental health) and they may become isolated from family, friends, peers or social groups. The individual expresses a desire/intent to take part in or support extremist activity.

Online grooming and Cyber bullying

If you are concerned that a child may be accessing or receiving inappropriate material through the internet, being bullied or communicating with an adult that you do not know please contact a named designated member of staff in school.

Contact Numbers

Head Teacher
01706 631755 Alison Petrie

Deputy Head Teacher
01706 631755 Nicola Smith

Pastoral Manager - Families
01706 631755 Nadine Taylor

Designated Governor
01706 631755 Jill Smith

Children's Social Care Services (Rochdale):
0300 303 0440

Emergencies and out of hours: 0300 303 8875

Police (Child Protection Unit): 0161 856 8757 / 3168

Keep Kids Safe: Text for Help

Concerns about child protection or bullying can also be made by text to the number below.

07624806327

<https://www.stedwardsce.rochdale.sch.uk/rochdale/primary/stedwardsce/site/pages/ourschool/safeguarding>