



**Courtney Primary School**  
**Nurture, Inspire, Flourish.**


# **Safeguarding and Child Protection Policy**

***Working together to develop lifelong learners with a strong sense of self who are active participants in their communities.***

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|--------------------|--|------------------|
| This version dated | Summary of changes   | Next review date |
| September 2023     | Updated in line with Keeping children Safe in Education 2023 | September 2024   |

The Headteacher, **Georgina Scott** is the Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL), the designated person with responsibility for Child Protection.

The Headteacher, **Georgina Scott**, has ultimate responsibility. The Deputy designated safeguarding Lead (DDSL) is **Kristy Barter** who has also had appropriate training and is experienced. The Headteacher will regularly consult with the DDSL so that actions are discussed and agreed.

| Role   | Name  | Contact details |
|--|---|-----------------|
| Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL)   | Georgina Scott  | 01454 866670    |
| Deputy Designated Safeguarding Lead (second)   | Kristy Barter   | 01454 866670    |
| Nominated governor for safeguarding and child protection   | Liam Halpin   | 01454 866670    |
| Kingswood Hub  | Duty Desk   | 01454 868541    |
| Local Authority Designated Officer (LADO)<br><a href="mailto:Tina.Wilson@southglos.gov.uk">Tina.Wilson@southglos.gov.uk</a>                        | Tina Wilson   | 01454 868508    |
| ART – for reporting concerns<br><a href="mailto:accessandresponse@southglos.gov.uk">accessandresponse@southglos.gov.uk</a>                         | Duty Desk   | 01454 866000    |
| Emergency Duty Service – after hours, weekends and public holidays   | 01454 615165  |                 |
| Single Assessment Framework Early Help (SAFeh)<br><a href="mailto:earlyhelpsupportteam@southglos.gov.uk">earlyhelpsupportteam@southglos.gov.uk</a> |   |                 |
| Ofsted Whistleblowing  | 03001233155   |                 |
| South Gloucestershire Children's Partnership Website contains comprehensive guidance on a range of safeguarding issues in greater depth.           |  <a href="http://sites.southglos.gov.uk/safeguarding/children/">http://sites.southglos.gov.uk/safeguarding/children/</a> |                 |

### Related Policies

Anti-Bullying;  
Behaviour;  
Code of Conduct;  
Complaints;  
Confidentiality;  
Visits;  
Health and Safety;  
Medical Needs;  
E-Safety (+ parent/carer acceptable use and staff acceptable use);  
Preventing Extremism; Safer Working Practice; Staff Grievance;  
Whistleblowing.

## 1. INTRODUCTION

At Courtney Primary School we are committed to creating and maintaining a safe and secure environment for pupils, students, staff, governors, volunteers and visitors and to promoting a climate where children, young people and adults will feel confident about sharing any concerns which they may have about their own safety or the well-being of others.

Our policy draws on all relevant legislation and guidance including:

- The Children Act (1989 and 2004);
- Keeping Children Safe in Education: Statutory guidance for schools and colleges (2023);
- The Prevent Duty (2015);
- The four guiding principles of the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC); and
- Working Together to Safeguard Children (2018).

Other school policies and procedures which should be read alongside this policy are listed on page 3. These policies can be accessed via the School Office.

We believe that our school provides a safe, positive and caring environment in which children can grow in their social, physical and moral development. We recognise the vital contribution our school can make in safeguarding children and young people from harm and we intend to carry out our responsibilities actively and enthusiastically in liaison with all other concerned parties.

A copy of this policy is available on request to parents/carers and is also accessible via the school website <https://courtney.eschools.co.uk/website>

Our policy applies to all staff, volunteers and governors working in the school. Concerned parents/carers may contact the Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL) or Deputy DSL in their absence.

Throughout this policy 'children', 'child' or 'young person' refer to anyone under the age of 18 years old.

### **Safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children is:**

- 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;
- Taking action to enable all children to have the best outcomes

### **Child Protection is:**

Part of safeguarding and promoting welfare. This refers to the activity that is undertaken to protect children who are suffering, or are likely to suffer, significant harm.

We recognise the need for all to be alert to the risks posed by those who may wish to harm children and young people in school or travelling to and from school and their homes, and to maintain an attitude that "it could happen here where safeguarding is concerned" (Keeping Children Safe in Education, 2023).

## The five main elements to this policy are:

- Striving to **prevent** harm through the development of a positive school ethos, a safe school environment, a full curriculum and through the offer of pastoral support to pupils and their families;
- The school child protection **infrastructure and procedures** for identifying and reporting cases (or suspected cases) of abuse or other child protection concerns;
- **Support** for pupils who may have suffered significant harm, and their families;
- **Staff recruitment, management and support systems** which protect children and young people.
- **Specific safeguarding issues** faced by children and young people.

## 2. AIMS OF THE POLICY

- To ensure all staff are clear about the 'Paramountcy Principle'; that the welfare of the child is the paramount consideration.
- To support the development of the whole child as an individual by promoting security, confidence and independence;
- To raise awareness of all staff and governors as to their responsibilities in identifying and reporting possible cases of abuse as set out in Keeping Children Safe in Education 2023;
- To ensure that staff concerned with particular children and young people in need are aware of their role and responsibility in safeguarding these pupils as set out in Keeping Children Safe in Education 2023;
- To use a clear system of monitoring children and young people who are known to be or considered to be at risk of harm;
- To ensure that there is good, appropriate and effective communication between all members of staff;
- To develop and promote effective working relationships with other agencies, especially the three safeguarding partners – South Gloucestershire Council, Bristol, North Somerset and South Gloucestershire (BNSSG) Clinical Commissioning Group and the Avon and Somerset Constabulary;
- To ensure all adults working within the school with access to children and young people undergo all relevant checks e.g. enhanced DBS check as set out in Keeping Children Safe in Education 2023.

## 3. PREVENTING HARM

We recognise that developing the necessary qualities (e.g. emotional resilience, self-confidence) within both the children themselves and the school as a whole can help to prevent harm.

The school will therefore:

- Establish and maintain an ethos where children and young people feel secure, are encouraged to talk and are listened to;
- Ensure children and young people know that there are adults in the school who they can approach if they are worried or in difficulty;
- Ensure pupils are taught about safeguarding, including online, through various teaching and learning opportunities as part of our broad and balanced curriculum. Included are the curriculum activities and opportunities that equip children and young people with the skills they need to stay safe from abuse and ensure that they know who to turn to for help, mainly through our PSHE, E-Safety programme, regular Circle Time and Jigsaw;

- Include in the curriculum materials which will help children and young people develop realistic attitudes to the responsibilities of adult life, particularly with regard to the care of children and young people.

#### 4. EARLY HELP

Keeping Children Safe in Education 2023 states that “**All** staff should be prepared to identify children who may benefit from early help. Early help means providing support as soon as a problem emerges at any point in a child’s life, from the foundation years through to the teenage years” (p. 5-6) Staff should discuss early help requirements with the DSL (or Deputy). We follow the South Gloucestershire early help process which includes the use of the [Single Assessment Framework early help \(SAFeh\)](#) . It may be appropriate for a member of school staff to initiate a SAFeh and take on the role of Lead Professional, or become a member of a Team around the Child/Family (TAC/F) as part of the SAFeh process. If this is the case, then the staff member should be supported by the DSL, for example, by being given time to write the SAFeh and attend TAC/F meetings.

#### 5. INFRASTRUCTURE AND PROCEDURES

The procedures for safeguarding children and young people will be in line with the South West Child Protection Procedures and those accessed on the South Gloucestershire Safeguarding Board (SGSCB) website <http://sites.southglos.gov.uk/safeguarding/children/i-am-a-professional/safeguarding-guidance-policiesand-plans/>

##### **As a whole school we will ensure that:**

- We have a Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL) who will be trained to an advanced level by attending Advanced Inter-agency Child Protection training and maintained by attending CP Update training every 2 years thereafter. The DSL is one of the Strategic Development Leaders (SDLs);
- We have at least one Deputy DSL who will meet the same training requirements as the DSL outlined above;
- Every member of staff and every governor knows and understands:
  - the name of the DSL, Deputy DSL and Designated Governor and their roles around safeguarding and child protection;
  - that they have an individual responsibility for acting on any concerns about a child’s welfare immediately by following this policy and speaking to the DSL (or a deputy); and
  - their responsibilities as outlined in Keeping Children Safe in Education 2023
- All staff undergo safeguarding and child protection training on induction;
- All members of staff receive whole setting Child Protection training every 3 years which covers:
  - their personal responsibilities in relation to child protection;
  - school child protection procedures;
  - identifying signs of abuse/suspected abuse;
  - how to support a child, young person or adult who discloses abuse;
  - current national and local issues in safeguarding and child protection;
  - whistleblowing and the role of the Local Authority Designated Officer (LADO); and - relevant legislation related to child protection.
- All matters relating to child protection are confidential. Information about a child or young person will only be disclosed to members of staff on a need to know basis, in line with [Information sharing](#)

[advice for practitioners providing safeguarding services to children, young people, parents and carers 2018](#) ;

- All staff are aware of their professional responsibility to share information with other agencies in order to safeguard children and young people;
- All staff are aware that they should never promise a child or young person that they can keep secrets for them;
- All staff are aware that they need to obtain support and help for the children and young people should it be necessary;
- All members of staff recognise that statistically children and young people with SEN and disabilities are most vulnerable to abuse; school staff working with children and young people with profound and multiple disabilities, cerebral palsy, sensory impairment and or emotional and behaviour difficulties will be particularly sensitive to signs of abuse;
- All members of staff recognise the importance of children being safeguarded from potentially harmful and inappropriate online material;
- Parents/carers are aware of the responsibilities of staff with regard to child protection and understand the role staff play in child protection and that good communication between parents/carers and the school is vital to this;
- All new members of staff are given a copy of the relevant safeguarding policies and procedures (including this Child Protection Policy) during their induction to the school. Staff sign the relevant form to confirm that they have read and that they have understood the content of the policies and procedures;
- All supply and temporary staff are shown the school procedures flowchart and the names of the DSL, Deputy DSL and Chair of Governors;
- Entry to school premises is electronically controlled by doors and that authorised visitors to the school will be signed into and out of the premises;
- Blue lanyards will be given to adults with a DBS check. Red lanyards to all other adults.
- Visitors, when arriving at reception, will be asked to read a summary of the school's safeguarding procedures. Their signing in will be an acknowledgement that they understand the purpose of the procedures;
- That parents and carers are allowed on school site during certain times of the day (during pick-up and drop-off) and that this is with the permission of the school. Should there be any concerns raised about the conduct of parents/carers or visitors they will be asked to leave and further action taken to ensure the safety of children and young people.

## **6. REPORTING CONCERNS (see Appendices 2, 3 and 4 )**

**It is important that all communication is given in writing to the DSL as soon as possible as an official signed and dated record or recorded on an individual member of staff's CPOMs log in.**

### **Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL) Roles and Responsibilities**

- Taking the ultimate **lead responsibility** for safeguarding and child protection (including online safety) within our school, as set out in Keeping Children Safe in Education 2023. This responsibility should not be delegated.
- Ensuring that he/she works closely with the Deputy DSL so that they can act effectively in the absence of the DSL;

- Ensuring that the relevant safeguarding and child protection information is shared with staff on induction – part one of Keeping Children Safe in Education 2023 (and a copy of Annex A to all staff who work directly with children) our school’s child protection policy, behaviour policy, code of conduct, the safeguarding response to children who go missing from education and the role of the designated safeguarding lead (including the identity of the designated safeguarding lead and deputies);
- Adhering to South Gloucestershire Children’s Partnership (SGCP) procedures by referring children and young people to the Access and Response Team (ART) on 01454 866000 if there are concerns about their safety or well-being;
- Ensuring that in the case of a referral to ART (or any social care ‘front door’ in other Local Authorities) to, the parents/carers are informed prior to the referral being made, unless doing so would put the child or young person at risk of further harm;
- Ensuring that written or online records are kept about any child or young person about whom there are concerns of possible abuse or neglect. Abuse will be defined in terms of: Physical Abuse, Sexual Abuse, Emotional Abuse, (including witnessing or hearing domestic abuse) and Neglect (see appendix 1);
- Storing any paper records confidentially in a secure locked cabinet in the Headteacher’s Office;
- Checking the attendance of children and young people subject to a child protection plan notifying the relevant social care team if:
  - a pupil subject to a child protection plan is excluded either for a fixed term or permanently
  - there is an unexplained absence of a pupil subject to a child protection plan of more than a day from school (or one day following a weekend) without contact and good reason;
- Attendance at Initial Child Protection Case Conferences, Core Groups and Child Protection Review Conferences;
- Submitting written reports to Social Care on request within the agreed time limits;
- Liaising with other agencies to safeguard children and young people;
- Notifying parents/carers as soon as possible if a child or young person sustains an injury or are affected by an incident whilst they are the responsibility of the school;
- Ensuring that a paper copy of all child protection records, or an electronic copy is securely sent/forwarded to a child or young person’s new school following a transfer and signed for;
- Retain copies of all child protection files including those for children or young people no longer on roll until the child reaches 25;
- Ensuring that staff are appropriately trained and given regular safeguarding updates; and
- Ensuring that the Single Central Record is maintained as an up to date and accurate record.

***N.B. Further information about the role of Designated Safeguarding Lead can be found in Annex B of Keeping Children Safe in Education 2023***

## **7. SUPPORTING CHILDREN**

We recognise that when children and young people are the victims of abuse or are witnessing abuse, for example, domestic abuse, their self-esteem and sense of self-worth will be adversely affected. Our school may be the only stable, secure and predictable element in the lives of children and young people at risk. Nevertheless, when at school their behaviour may be challenging and defiant or they may be withdrawn. All staff are encouraged to consider the underlying causes for a child or young person’s behaviour – all behaviour is communication.

We understand that our role is to help children and young people combat the feelings of helplessness and self-blame they may experience in these situations. We can do this by maintaining a positive school ethos where children and young people feel valued, safe and secure and are encouraged to talk and are always listened to.

**The school will endeavour to support pupils with difficulties through:**

- Continued monitoring of their development coordinated by the DSL in collaboration with other staff working directly with those children and young people;
- Keeping records and notifying ART as soon as there is a recurrence of a concern;
- Continued close collaboration with parents/carers;
- Liaison with a wide range of appropriate and trustworthy statutory and voluntary agencies who may be able to support the student;
- The school's Positive Relationships policy, which outlines a consistent approach focusing on the behaviour or the offence committed by the child or young person but does not damage the pupil's sense of self-worth (for example, supporting those who are accused of sexual violence and/or sexual harassment); and
- Providing appropriate pastoral support and care.

**8. SUPPORTING STAFF**

We recognise that staff who have been involved with a child or young person who has been abused or appears at risk of harm, may find the situation very stressful and upsetting. Support will be given to staff by providing an opportunity to talk about their anxieties and reflect on possible outcomes with a designated member of staff and to seek further external support as appropriate.

**9. ALLEGATIONS AGAINST STAFF (see Appendix 4)**

- If an allegation is made against, or there are concerns about the behaviour of a member of staff, volunteer or Governor, the Head teacher must be informed immediately;
- If the response from the Head teacher to a report of an allegation or concern is felt to be unsatisfactory then the Chair of Governors and the LADO must be informed immediately;
- Where the allegation is against, or the concern is about the Head teacher, the Chair of Governors should be informed immediately;
- The Chair of Governors must inform the LADO immediately.

**10. WHISTLEBLOWING (See Whistleblowing Policy)**

We recognise that children and young people cannot be expected to raise concerns in an environment where staff fail to do so. All staff should be aware of their duty to raise concerns about the attitude or actions of colleagues. A Whistleblowing Policy is in place for this purpose. This policy can be accessed by the School Office and on the school's website.

The NSPCC whistleblowing helpline is available as an alternative route for staff who do not feel able to raise concerns regarding child protection failures internally or have concerns about the way a concern is being handled by their school or college. Staff can call 0800 028 0285 – line is available from 8:00 AM to 8:00 PM, Monday to Friday and email: [help@nspcc.org.uk](mailto:help@nspcc.org.uk)



## **11. SAFER RECRUITMENT**

We aim to create a culture of safe recruitment and, as part of that, adopt recruitment procedures that deter, reject and identify people who might abuse children. The school staffing (England) regulations 2009 require Governing bodies of maintained schools to ensure that at least one of the persons conducting interviews has completed safer recruitment training. We adhere to the advice and guidance as outlined in Keeping Children Safe in Education 2023 part three.

In order to ensure that children are protected whilst at this school, we will ensure that our staff and volunteers are carefully selected, screened, trained and supervised.

We accept that it is our responsibility to follow the guidance set out in "Keeping Children Safe in Education" Part Three: Safer Recruitment, in particular.

We will ensure that at least one member of any interview panel has completed certified Safer Recruitment Training.

In addition, we will complete the Recruitment Checklist and ensure that the following checks are satisfactorily completed before a person takes up a position in the school:

- Identity checks to establish that applicants are who they claim to be
- Academic qualifications, to ensure that qualifications are genuine
- Professional and character references prior to offering employment
- Checks to satisfy health and physical capacity
- Previous employment history will be examined and any gaps accounted for
- An enhanced Disclosure and Barring Service check (based on the flowchart of DBS p40 of Keeping Children Safe in Education)

## **12. INDUCTION AND TRAINING**

We recognise the importance of Induction and Training. All new members of staff will receive induction training, which will give an overview of the organisation and ensure all safeguarding and health and safety procedures are made known, including how to identify and report abuse, whistleblowing and confidentiality issues.

All new staff at the school (including volunteers) will receive basic child protection information and will be required to read through this policy within one week of starting their work at the school.

All staff will be expected to attend training on safeguarding children that will enable them to fulfil their responsibilities in respect of child protection effectively. The school will provide this training through the designated person.

Staff will receive refresher training at least every three years, and the designated person at least every two years, all with annual updates.

## **13. CONDUCT OF STAFF**

All staff (paid and voluntary) and governors are expected to adhere to the school's Code of Conduct in respect of their contact with pupils and their families. Children and young people will be treated with respect and dignity and no punishment, restraint, sanctions or rewards are allowed outside those detailed in the school's Behaviour Policy.

Whilst it would be unrealistic to prohibit all physical contact between adults, children and young people, staff are expected to exercise caution and avoid placing themselves in a position where their actions might be open to criticism and misrepresentation. If it becomes necessary to restrain a pupil physically for their own or others' safety, this should be in line with the school's policy for restraint, a record will be made of the incident in the red Bound and Numbered Book and the Head teacher informed on the same day.

For their own safety and protection, staff should exercise caution in situations where they are alone with pupils. All rooms which are used for the teaching or counselling of pupils should have clear glass panels in the doors or the doors will be left open. If this is not the case, for example in Play Therapy, a separate risk assessment will be written.

School staff should also be alert to the possible risks which might arise from contact with pupils and parents/carers outside the school including the use of social media. Please refer to the Online Safety Policy and the policy on Social Media, in addition to the Code of Conduct.

#### Guidance for safer working practice for those working with children and young people in education settings.

All staff should be aware of the dangers inherent in:

- physical interventions
- cultural and gender stereotyping
- dealing with sensitive information
- giving and receiving gifts from children and parents
- contacting children through private telephones (including texting), e-mail, MSN, or social networking websites
- disclosing personal details inappropriately
- meeting pupils outside school hours or school duties

#### **14. POSITIVE HANDLING (Use of Reasonable Force)**

Courtney Primary School follows DfE guidelines on Use of Reasonable Force July 2013

[https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/355362/use\\_of\\_reasonable\\_force.pdf](https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/355362/use_of_reasonable_force.pdf)

The term 'reasonable force' covers the broad range of actions used by most teachers at some point in their career that involve a degree of physical contact with pupils. Force is usually used either to control or restrain. This can range from guiding a pupil to safety by the arm through to more extreme circumstances such as breaking up a fight or where a student needs to be restrained to prevent violence or injury.

'Reasonable in the circumstances' means using no more force than is needed.

Courtney Primary School generally uses either passive physical contact, such as standing between pupils or blocking a pupil's path, or active physical contact such as leading a pupil by the arm.

Restraint means to hold back physically or to bring a pupil under control. It is typically used in more extreme circumstances, for example when two pupils are fighting and refuse to separate without physical intervention.

Any restraint used is recorded in the **Red Bound and Numbered Book** in the Headteacher's Office.

Key staff members have received 'Team Teach' training. All allegations of abuse by or complaints of a teacher/support worker will be dealt with following the Local Children's Partnership procedures.

## **15. INTIMATE CARE**

Intimate Care procedures are followed by all staff at Courtney Primary School. Individual Care Plans will be drawn up for any child requiring regular care. In the event of occasional soiling accidents, two adults must be present for any action taken and the child is encouraged to clean themselves. A parent/carer will be contacted if the soiling is extreme.

## **16. VOLUNTEERS AND VISITORS**

Visitors must only enter through the main entrance and after signing in at the office.

Visitors with a professional role i.e. agencies such as CAMHS etc. will already have relevant clearance through their own agency. Visitors must produce the appropriate professional ID.

All visitors without appropriate professional ID will have their identity checked by contacting their organisation. Only when this is satisfied will they be given a visitor's badge. If a parent/carer or other volunteer is to be in school regularly (more than 3 times in a month or for consecutive months), then they will be subject to a DBS check to ensure their suitability to work with children.

We are very aware that some people otherwise unsuitable for working with children may use volunteering to gain access to children; for this reason, any volunteers in the school, in whatever capacity, will be given the same consideration as paid staff.

Any adult who is in school without a DBS check will wear a red lanyard. This indicates to staff that they should not be left alone when children are in the building. A parent/carer or other volunteer who helps on a one-off basis will only work under the direct supervision of a member of staff, and at no time be left alone with children. Blue lanyards indicate a person who has DBS clearance.

If a volunteer is involved in a brief activity, such as a school visit, which does not involve the supervision or close contact of children, the school will consider this within the trip's risk assessment.

In the event that we feel it appropriate that an individual without current enhanced DBS Disclosure should be in our school whilst the DBS check is being carried out, then a risk assessment will be put into place to allow this to happen.

All staff are trained to challenge any unrecognised person on site without a visitor badge and escort them to the main Office.

## **17. CONFIDENTIALITY (see also E-safety Policy)**

It is our intention to respect the privacy of children and their parents and carers, while ensuring that they access high quality school care and education

To ensure that all those using and working in the school can do so with confidence, we respect confidentiality in the following ways:

- Parents have ready access to the files and records of their own children but do not have access to information about any other child.

- Staff will not discuss personal information given by parents with other members of staff, except where it affects planning for the child's needs. Staff induction includes awareness of the importance of confidentiality in the role of the key person.
- Any concerns/evidence relating to a child's personal safety are kept in a secure, confidential file and are shared with as few people as possible on a "need-to-know" basis.
- Personal information about children, families and staff is kept securely in a lockable file whilst remaining as accessible as possible.
- Issues to do with the employment of staff, whether paid or unpaid, remain confidential to the people directly involved with making personnel decisions.
- Students on training, when they are observing in the school, are advised of our confidentiality policy as part of their induction.

The school is mindful that it is placed in a position of trust by all stakeholders and there is a general expectation that a professional approach will be used in all matters of confidentiality

## **18. HEALTH AND SAFETY (see Health and Safety Policy)**

The delegated members of staff for Health and Safety are

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| <b>Georgina Scott – Curriculum</b> |
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|                                |
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| <b>Chloe Erwood - Premises</b> |
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The delegated governor of Health and Safety is

**Liam Halpin**

The school has a Health and Safety Policy, which is reviewed regularly by the school governors.

The Headteacher and the Governors oversee the policy. However, there is an expectation that every member of staff has a commitment and responsibility to health and safety within the workplace.

Any concerns from staff are reported to any of the above or the site manager who carries out an initial examination, assessing what remedial action needs to take place.

Each term there is a fire drill that allows the school community to practise efficient evacuation from the buildings. Risk assessments of various activities are also carried out.

Other relevant documents include: The Health and Safety File which includes relevant legislation.

## **19. SITE SECURITY**

Courtney Primary School provides a secure site, but the site is only as secure as the people who use it. All people must adhere to the rules, which govern it; laxity can cause potential problems to safeguarding. Therefore:

- All exit doors should be closed to prevent intrusion. All doors have a security system/key fob.
  - On no account should any person lock the security doors on 'open' and leave the doorway.

- In hot weather, outside doors on to the balcony may be left open only if there is an adult in the class who is able to challenge any intruder attempting to gain entry to the school. ***This includes dinnertimes and playtimes.***
- Any adult who opens the external doors should make sure that they have automatically closed before leaving them unattended.
- Visitors must only enter through the main entrance after signing in at the office and with a visitor's badge.
- Children will only be allowed home with the permission of adults with parental responsibility.
- Children should only be allowed to leave school alone during school hours if collected by an adult by arrangement.
- Gates with direct access to the playgrounds are kept locked except at the start and end of each day.
- We have 'Lockdown Procedures' in place should an incident need such a response.

### **Dismissal and Arrival**

- Our playground is staffed from 8:30 each morning.
- Entry doors to school building are manned from 8:40am until 8:50am to prevent access into the building by any unauthorised individual.
- Registers are completed by 9:10 each morning and any unexpected absence is investigated by an immediate contact with parents/carers
- Children in KS1 and Reception are supervised at home times and only allowed home with adults with parental responsibility or where alternative permission has been given.
- Children are never allowed to leave school alone during school hours. When collected by an adult, they are signed out.
- Out of School Club (Oosc) will always sign children in and out. Children will only ever be handed over to the adults named on the registration form.
- Extra Curricular Club sign up will include collection arrangements. Children will either be allowed to walk home or be collected by a nominated adult.

### **20. ATTENDANCE (see Attendance Policy)**

Courtney Primary School actively encourages and motivates pupils to meet the school attendance target of 96%

When children are unwell parents/carers are expected to confirm absence by telephone. If there is no notification school has a policy of phoning home to ascertain each child's whereabouts. The school works closely with our own Education Welfare Officer whenever a child's attendance and punctuality causes concern. Attendance rates are reported each term to the LA, annually to the government, to the Governing Body and to all parents/carers.

Positive measures are in place to encourage children to attend regularly and punctually and the school is aware of its right to take legal action against parents who do not ensure good attendance and punctuality.

Courtney Primary School has an open door policy so that if parents have any concerns re attendance we will happily work together to support the child or young person's attendance.

We will remain alert for any child who may be missing education following the DfE guidance (Sep 16).

## **21. SPECIAL NEEDS and/or Disabilities**

At Courtney, we recognise that additional barriers exist when recognising the signs of abuse and neglect of children who have special educational needs and/or disabilities. Our SENDCo includes all areas of a child's development and well-being within each SEND child's individual termly review.

## **22. EQUALITIES**

Courtney Primary School ensures that equal opportunities are available for everyone, regardless of sex, class and ethnic group or ability range. Racism and harassment is tackled in both the RE and in the PSHE curriculum. Children with disabilities must be able to take a full and active part in every lesson and every measure must be taken to ensure this. The school will work hard to promote racial equality and harmony by preventing and challenging racism. If anyone ever feels unjustly treated then the school will investigate this and take any necessary action.

All racist incidents will be reported to the Governing Body.

## **23. ONLINE SAFETY (see Social Media Policy and E-safety Policy)**

New technologies have become integral to the lives of children and young people in today's society, both within schools and in their lives outside school. Technologies open up new learning opportunities for everyone. They can both promote learning and effective communication between parents/carers and the school. Young people should have an entitlement to safe internet access. At Courtney Primary School we actively encourage children to use the internet, but at all times in a safe way.

Pupils must never be left unattended whilst online and teachers should ensure that this does not happen. If teachers know of misuse, either by a teacher or child the issue should be reported to the e-safety lead who has overall responsibility for e-safety or the Headteacher. The concern will be recorded in the school's esafety log on CPOMS. E-safety concerns prior to CPOMS will be kept on the school's log.

|                                      |
|--------------------------------------|
| <b>E-Safety Lead – Kristy Barter</b> |
|--------------------------------------|

All teaching staff have received training on e-safety and the school has adopted the recommended progression of e-safety teaching outlined in the South Gloucestershire Strands.

A child's full name and photograph are never displayed together when uploading to the school website.

Our school Twitter and Class Dojo account is a closed account that requires new followers to be vetted and accepted by school leaders.

All children and parents/carers sign an 'Acceptable Use Agreement' when their child starts our school. Due to the rise in the number of incidents, this is also now completed for every child at the start of each academic year in order to remind families of their responsibilities.

Further reference material:

E-safety policy

Social Media Policy

Twitter Acceptable Use Policy Acceptable Use Agreement refer also to South West Safeguarding Board <https://www.proceduresonline.com/swcpp/>

## **24. PHOTOGRAPHING CHILDREN**

We understand that parents/carers like to take photos of or video record their children in the school play, at sports day, or at school presentations. This is a normal part of family life, and we will not discourage parents/carers from celebrating their child's successes. However, we will remind parents/carers to concentrate on their own child and to not use images of any other pupils on social media sites without the express permission of their parents/carers. The school cannot, however, guarantee this and will not be held accountable for photographs or video footage taken by parents or members of the public at school functions. The school will take necessary steps for any child whose parent/carer has, for safeguarding reasons, forbidden images of their child to be used.

We will not allow images of pupils to be used on school websites, publicity, or press releases, without express permission from the parent/carer, and if we do obtain such permission, we will not identify individual children by name.

## **25. PUBLICATION UNDER THE FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT**

One of the aims of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA) is that public authorities, including all maintained schools, should be clear and proactive about the information they will make public.

At Courtney Primary School we let parents/carers know the information which we publish or intend to publish, the manner in which the information will be published and whether the information is available free of charge or on payment.

Some information which we hold may not be made public, for example, personal information.

## **26. GDPR**

The school has adopted appropriate GDPR practices and policies following training and current advice.

## **27. STAFF WELLBEING**

We have a policy of encouraging and enabling all staff to maintain a healthy balance between their work and other interests and responsibilities in their life. The rationale is that:

- a good work life balance is central to staff effectiveness and satisfaction, and to pupil learning.
- work-life balance is about helping staff combine work with their personal interests and commitments.

The Governing Body has a statutory responsibility to ensure, so far as is reasonably practical, the health, safety and well-being of all their employees. See *Staff Wellbeing Policy*.

## **28. CONTRACTED SERVICES**

Where the Governing Body contracts its services to outside providers, we will ensure that these providers have appropriate safeguarding and child protection policies and procedures, and that there are arrangements in place to link with the school on such matters. Such considerations will be made explicit in any contract or service level agreement with the provider.

## **29. SPECIFIC SAFEGUARDING ISSUES**

Some of the specific safeguarding issues faced by children and young people are outlined below:

- Children Missing Education (CME)
- Child on Child abuse, including sexual violence, sexual harassment and upskirting
- The Prevent Duty
- Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE)
- Female Genital Mutilation (FGM)

- Criminal Exploitation of Children (CEC) and County Lines

**All staff are required to read and sign to acknowledge they have done so** Keeping Children Safe in Education 2023 Part 1 and Annex A. This contains additional information about these and other specific safeguarding issues – children and the court system, children with family members in prison, domestic abuse, private fostering, homelessness, so-called ‘honour-based’ violence and sexual violence and sexual harassment between children in schools and colleges.

**Keeping Children Safe In Education (2023)** has made two significant changes for 2023. Firstly, there is a new emphasis on filtering and monitoring systems. These systems provide a safe environment to learn and work by protecting pupils and staff from harmful and inappropriate content online. What’s seen to be harmful will depend on each pupil. All staff must follow processes, policies and procedures, act on reports and concerns and monitor what their class are looking at online at all times.

Secondly, there is a clearer distinction between children who are absent from education vs children missing education. A child absent from education is a child who is on roll at a school, but is very regularly not attending; a child missing education is a child of compulsory school age who isn’t on a school roll or being educated elsewhere. Being absent from education, and missing education, are vital warning signs of safeguarding risks to a child.

KCSIE 2023 also includes updated links to behaviour guidance, cyber security standards and keeping children safe in out-of-school settings. It also includes the change in law from February 2023 around forced marriage. It’s now a crime to carry out any conduct whose purpose is to cause a child to marry before their 18th birthday, even if violence, threats or another form of coercion are not used. This applies to non-binding, unofficial ‘marriages’, as well as legal marriages.

### **Children Missing Education (CME)**

All staff should be aware that children going missing, particularly repeatedly, can act as a vital warning sign of a range of safeguarding possibilities. This may include abuse and neglect, which may include sexual abuse or exploitation and criminal exploitation. It may indicate mental health problems, risk of substance abuse, risk of travelling to conflict zones, risk of FGM or forced marriage. Early intervention is necessary to identify the existence of any underlying safeguarding risk and to help prevent the risks of a child going missing in future. Staff should be aware of the importance of the school’s attendance procedures.

### **Child on Child abuse, including sexual violence, sexual harassment and upskirting.**

Children can abuse other children. This is generally referred to as child on child abuse and can take many forms. This can include (but not limited to): bullying (including cyberbullying); sexual violence and sexual harassment; physical abuse such as hitting, kicking, shaking, biting, hair pulling, or otherwise causing physical harm; sexting and initiation/hazing type violence.

Sexual violence and sexual harassment can occur between two children of any age and sex. It can also occur through a group of children sexually assaulting or sexually harassing a single child or a group of children.

Children who are victims of sexual violence and sexual harassment will likely find the experience stressful and distressing. This will in all likelihood, adversely affect their educational attainment. Sexual violence and harassment exist on a continuum and may overlap, they can occur online and offline (both verbal and physical) and are never acceptable. It is important that all victims are taken seriously and offered



appropriate support. Staff should be aware that some groups are potentially more at risk. Evidence shows girls, children with SEND and LGBTQ+ children are at greater risk.

Staff should be aware of the importance of:

- Making clear that sexual violence and sexual harassment is not acceptable, will never be tolerated and is not part of growing up;
- Not tolerating or dismissing sexual violence or sexual harassment as “banter”, “part of growing up”, “just having a laugh”, or “boys being boys”, and
- Challenging behaviours (potentially criminal in nature), such as grabbing bottoms, breasts and genitalia, flicking bras and lifting skirts. Dismissing or tolerating such behaviours risks normalising them.

**‘Upskirting’** typically involves taking a picture under a persons’ clothing without them knowing, with the intention of viewing their genitals or buttocks to obtain sexual gratification, or cause the victim humiliation, distress or alarm. It is now a criminal offence.

### **The Prevent Duty**

Staff will undertake specific Prevent training in order for schools to fulfil the Prevent Duty. It is essential that staff are able to identify children and young people who may be vulnerable to radicalisation as part of our safeguarding duties. The statutory guidance makes clear that schools are expected to assess the risk of children and young people being drawn into terrorism, including support for extremist ideas that are part of terrorist ideology. This means being able to demonstrate both a general understanding of the risks affecting children and young people in the area and a specific understanding of how to identify individual children and young people who may be at risk of radicalisation and what to do to support them.

The general risks affecting children and young people may vary from area to area, and according to their age. Schools are in an important position to identify risks within a given local context.

It is important that schools understand these risks so that they can respond in an appropriate and proportionate way. At the same time schools should be aware of the increased risk of online radicalisation, as terrorist organisations may and do seek to radicalise children and young people through the use of social media and the internet.

There is no single way of identifying an individual who is likely to be susceptible to a terrorist ideology. As with managing other safeguarding risks, staff should be alert to changes in children and young people’s behaviour which could indicate that they may be in need of help or protection. Children and young people at risk of radicalisation may display different signs or seek to hide their views.

School staff should use their professional judgement in identifying children and young people who might be at risk of radicalisation and act proportionately.

Even very young children may be vulnerable to radicalisation by others, whether in the family or outside, and display concerning behaviour. The Prevent Duty does not require teachers to carry out unnecessary intrusion into family life but as with any other safeguarding risk, they must take action when they observe behaviour of concern.

The safeguarding procedures outlined above need to be followed in exactly the same way should staff have a concern about potential radicalisation or undue influences.

## **Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE)**

CSE is a form of child abuse which involves children and young people receiving something in exchange for sexual activity. Perpetrators of CSE are found in rural as well as urban areas and are not restricted to particular ethnic groups. It is important that staff are aware of the risk factors and alert the DSL if there are concerns.

Key indicators of children and young people being sexually exploited can include:

- Going missing for periods of time or regularly coming home late;
- Regularly missing school or education or not taking part in education;
- Appearing with unexplained gifts or new possessions;
- Associating with other young people involved in exploitation;
- Having older boyfriends or girlfriends;
- Suffering from sexually transmitted infections;
- Mood swings or changes in emotional wellbeing;
- Drug and alcohol misuse; and
- Displaying inappropriate sexualised behaviour.

Practitioners should also be aware that many children and young people who are victims of sexual exploitation may not recognise themselves as such but they should still be regarded as victims.

## **Honour Based Violence (HBV) including Female Genital Mutilation (FGM) and the Mandatory Reporting Duty**

As all staff should be vigilant to the indicators of child sexual exploitation - the same is relevant for HBV, FGM, forced marriage and practices such as breast ironing. All forms of HBV are abuse and should be handled and escalated as such.

Section 5B of the 2003 FGM Act introduced a mandatory duty which requires teachers in England and Wales to make a report to the police where, in the course of their professional duties, they either:

- Are informed by a girl under 18 that an act of FGM has been carried out on her;
- Observe physical signs which appear to show that an act of FGM has been carried out on a girl under 18 and they have no reason to believe that the act was necessary for the girl's physical or mental health or for purposes connected with labour or birth

Further information about making a report to the police can be found in the [FGM Mandatory Reporting Procedures](#). The DSL must be kept notified of any disclosures, concerns and calls made to the police. Recordings of disclosures/concerns and any subsequent conversations must be logged and given to the DSL as with any other safeguarding/child protection issue.

## **Criminal Exploitation of Children (CEC) and County Lines**

Criminal exploitation of children is a geographically widespread form of harm that is a typical feature of county lines criminal activity, drug networks or gangs grooming and exploiting children and young people to carry drugs and money from urban areas to suburban and rural areas, market and seaside towns. Key to identifying potential involvement in county lines are missing episodes, when the victim may have been

trafficked for the purpose of transporting drugs and a referral to the National Referral Mechanism should be considered. Like other forms of abuse and exploitation, county lines exploitation:

- Can affect any child or young person (male or female) under the age of 18 years;
- Can affect any adult at risk of harm over the age of 18 years;
- Can involve force and/or enticement based methods of compliance and is often accompanied by violence and threats of violence;
- Can be perpetrated by individuals or groups, males or females, and young people or adults; and
- Is typified by some form of power imbalance in favour of those perpetrating the exploitation. Whilst age may be the most obvious, this power imbalance can also be due to a range of other factors including gender, cognitive ability, physical strength, status, and access to economic or other resources.

### **Self-Harm**

Staff have a responsibility to report any concerns to the Designated Officer. There are a number of risk factors associated with self-harm including mental health disorders including depression and eating disorders, drug/alcohol abuse, and other risk-taking behaviour, recent trauma e.g. death of relative, parental divorce, negative thought patterns, and low self-esteem, bullying, abuse – sexual, physical and emotional, sudden changes in behaviour and academic performance, complex Special Educational Needs.

Self-harm is any deliberate, non-suicidal behaviour that inflicts physical harm on someone's own body and is aimed at relieving emotional distress. It can include cutting, scratching, burning, banging and bruising, overdosing (without suicidal intent) and deliberate bone-breaking/spraining.

## **Abuse Definitions and Signs**

*(from Keeping Children Safe in Education 2023)*

### **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 from participating in normal social interaction. It may involve seeing or hearing the ill-treatment of another. It may involve serious bullying (including cyberbullying), 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. Sexual abuse can take place online, and technology can be used to facilitate offline abuse. Sexual abuse is not solely perpetrated by adult males. Women can also commit acts of sexual abuse, as can other children. The sexual abuse of children by other children is a specific safeguarding issue in education.

### **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, for example, 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

**Some of the following signs may be indicators of physical abuse:**

- Children with frequent injuries;
- Children with unexplained or unusual fractures or broken bones; and
- Children with unexplained:
  - bruises or cuts;
  - burns or scalds; or
  - bite marks.

*Bruising*

Bruising that suggests the possibility of physical child abuse includes:

- Bruising in children who are not independently mobile
- Bruising in babies
- Bruises that are seen away from bony prominences
- Bruises to the face, back, abdomen, arms, buttocks, ears and hands • Multiple bruises in clusters
- Multiple bruises of uniform shape
- Bruises that carry an imprint of an implement or cord.

*Fractures*

- Fractures in children less than 18 months of age should be assessed for possible child abuse.
- Multiple fractures are more suspicious of abuse.

*Burns*

The following features may suggest abuse:

- Uncommon sites and appearances of burns inconsistent with the explanation or with the development/ability of the child
- Round red burns on soft, tender, non-protruding parts of the body such as inside of mouth, inside of legs, behind knees, inside of arms or on genitals

Physical harm may also be caused when a parent or carer fabricates the symptoms of, or deliberately induces, illness in a child

This includes Female Genital Mutilation.

**Some of the following signs may be indicators of emotional abuse:**

- Children who are excessively withdrawn, fearful, or anxious about doing something wrong;
- Parents or carers who withdraw their attention from their child, giving the child the 'cold shoulder';
- Parents or carers blaming their problems on their child; and
- Parents or carers who humiliate their child, for example, by name-calling or making negative comparisons.

**Other Behaviours/symptoms suggestive of emotional abuse**

- Continuous withholding of approval and affection by parent/carer
- Discipline severe and inappropriate, or non-existent, with few or no boundaries set
- Exploitation by parents/carer to fulfil their needs
- Continual self-deprecation
- Fear of new situations
- Impaired ability for play and enjoyment
- Lack of curiosity and natural exploration, air of detachment
- Inappropriate emotional responses to painful situations
- Delayed social and language skills

- Persistent head banging or rocking in a younger child
- Enuresis and encopresis (wetting and soiling)
- Compulsive stealing/scrounging
- Behavioural difficulties including aggression, disruptive behaviour
- Attention seeking
- Eating disturbances, poor growth
- Family history of domestic violence, mental illness of a carer or substance misuse
- Depression, withdrawal
- Only happy at school or kept away
- Pseudo mature or explicit sexual behaviour
- Open masturbation or aggressive sex play with peers
- Stomach pains without medical explanation
- Self-harm, mutilation, overdose or attempted suicide

**Some of the following signs may be indicators of sexual abuse:**

- Children who display knowledge or interest in sexual acts inappropriate to their age;
- Children who use sexual language or have sexual knowledge that you wouldn't expect them to have;
- Children who ask others to behave sexually or play sexual games; and
- Children with physical sexual health problems, including soreness in the genital and anal areas, sexually transmitted infections or underage pregnancy.

**Some of the following signs may be indicators of neglect:**

- Children who are living in a home that is indisputably dirty or unsafe;
- Children who are left hungry or dirty;
- Children who are left without adequate clothing, e.g. not having a winter coat;
- Children who are living in dangerous conditions, i.e. around drugs, alcohol or violence;
- Children who are often angry, aggressive or self-harm;
- Children who fail to receive basic health care ; and
- Parents who fail to seek medical treatment when their children are ill or are injured.

## Child Protection Procedures

**If a member of staff has ANY concerns relating to a child who they think may be at risk from any form of abuse the procedure is as follows:**

- When a Safeguarding/child protection concern is identified, however minor, the member of staff will **immediately** discuss any concerns with the Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL) and record them on CPOMS. For those who are not confident with this online method, the school's Yellow Concern Form should be used (copies of which are in the staffroom).
- It is easier to identify signs of physical abuse than emotional abuse, but when you know a child well and know that behaviour is out of character this may indicate that emotional abuse is taking place.

The discussion will allow one of the following decisions to be reached:

1. Immediate referral to the Assess and Response Team (ART).
2. Further discussion with other members of staff for example, the class teacher and learning support assistant
3. Close monitoring for a specified period based on written action
4. An informal discussion with ART if necessary for advice/support about the circumstances of pupil concerned about.

All actions, or the decision to take no further action, as a result of Yellow Concern Forms, will always be recorded by the DSL who will also inform the referrer verbally.

### **Procedures for referral of concerns:**

If immediate action is to be taken, the staff member will record what they have seen, or heard and the action taken, along with dates and times. This will be done on CPOMS (or a Yellow Concern Form which can be found on staffroom noticeboards). On CPOMS alert both Georgina Scott and Kristy Barter to the incident.

In the case of physical injury the injury should be described and recorded on a body map form (on CPOMS or paper copies can be found in the staffroom). The words used by the child should be quoted as accurately as possible, especially in the case of suspected sexual abuse.

The Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL) will investigate the concerns and may then telephone the parents or carers and/or telephone ART for advice. If further action is required involving external agencies the DSL will fill in a referral form and email it to ART as soon as possible and definitely within 48 hours. The school should record any action and record it on CPOMS.

Where a child presents clear and immediate evidence of abuse, any allocated social worker should be contacted or an immediate referral to ART should be made.

If a case conference is to be held the school is responsible for sending a representative. If this is not possible, the school should always send a report.

All cases of abuse should be handled with sensitivity, and the role of the school is to observe, record and report - **investigation is not our function.**

It should be noted that the content of reports may be required to be made known to the families concerned so only the facts should be written down. Parents or carers may also be present at an initial case conference.

## **RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE DESIGNATED PERSON**

**The main role of the designated person is to refer cases where abuse is suspected or allegations to the relevant investigating agencies according to the procedures established by South Gloucestershire Safeguarding Children Board.**

To be effective they must:

- Ensure each member of staff has access to and understands the school's Child Protection Policies. These must be updated and reviewed annually and work should be undertaken with the Governing Body regarding this.
- Act as a source of advice, support and expertise within the school and be responsible for coordinating action regarding referrals by liaising with ART, Children's Social Care and other relevant agencies over cases of abuse and allegations of abuse, regarding both children and members of staff.
- Make sure that all staff are aware of the role of the Designated Person and inform them of any issues and ongoing investigations
- Ensure there is always cover for their teaching duties in the event of an emergency arising, as action needs to be taken immediately a concern is raised.
- Have received training in how to identify abuse and know when it is appropriate to refer a case, together with having a working knowledge of how local Safeguarding Children Boards operate, the conduct of a child protection conference and which relevant staff should attend or send a written report in order to contribute to these effectively as required.
- Be able to keep detailed accurate secure written records of referrals/concerns on CPOMS.
- Obtain access to resources and attend any relevant or refresher training courses and be allowed the necessary time to fulfil this role.
- Identifying training and development needs for themselves and those staff involved in child protection issues and are able to identify and report any concerns they have to the designated person immediately they arise.
- Where children leave school ensure that their child protection file is transferred to the new school as soon as possible and is sent confidentially. Files should be hand-delivered and signed for if at all possible.



## **RESPONSIBILITIES OF SCHOOL GOVERNORS**

The Governing Body of Courtney Primary School shall make arrangements for ensuring that their responsibilities relating to the conduct of the school are exercised concerning safeguarding and the welfare of pupils at the school.

The FGB have nominated a Safeguarding Link Governor. Their role is to ensure that the school has effective policies and procedures and that staff are adequately trained and there are adequate resources in school to meet the responsibilities. The Link Governor will champion the cause but Safeguarding will remain the responsibility of the Full Governing Body.

The Link Governor will visit regularly to check on Safeguarding and Child Protection procedures and report back to the Full Governing Body. At all FGB meetings, Safeguarding will always be on the agenda.

## **RECORD KEEPING PROCEDURE**

All staff need to understand what records they are expected to complete and all designated officers should be aware of the procedure for the safekeeping of records and confidentiality. All records should be kept either on CPOMS or in a locked cabinet in a room that is not used by the students. The Headteacher, Deputy Headteacher, SENCo and the Deputy Child Protection Officer should be the only people who regularly access these records.

### **Access to records should be limited to appropriate staff in order to maintain:-**

- confidentiality
- the passing on of information on a strictly 'need to know' basis. This should be done and in line with local authority policies.

Good practice must promote the pupil's privacy in so far as this is consistent with supporting and promoting their welfare.

All staff should understand what information they can share, with whom and what can remain confidential to the individual pupil.

Information must be passed onto the right people and ACTION taken on the information with immediate effect.

### **Guidance on making notes:**

- Notes should be made immediately, carefully, accurately and factually.
- Signs of physical injury should be described in detail and recorded on a body map
- Any relevant comment by the child, or by an adult, should be recorded, preferably quoting the words actually used, as soon as possible after the comment has been made.
- Opinion should be restricted to the demeanour of the informant and any other information relevant to his/her state of mind.
- The personal opinion of a member of staff should not be included. Professional opinion should be clearly identified as such.

## ADVICE ON RESPONDING TO THE CHILD

- **React** calmly, don't panic
- **Listen** carefully to the child. Take what he or she says seriously
- **Reassure** the child that he or she is not to blame and was right to tell
- **Tell** the child what action you are going to take including the fact that you have to speak to others in order to get support for them, but reassuring them that only these people will be told at this stage
- **Record** what was said, in writing, as soon as possible after talking with the child  
(Note down how the child was behaving and the way in which he or she told you what happened)
- **Acknowledge** how difficult it must have been for a child to confide.

**Remember that you too may need support. Listening to a child disclosing abuse can be very upsetting.**

## ADVICE FOR SUPPORTING THE CHILD

If a child has to be interviewed by the social worker/safeguarding/police personnel, within the school premises, then the following procedures should be considered:

- The DSL should ascertain from the social worker the purpose of the interview and that it is held before the end of school.
- The child should be informed prior to the interview by the DSL or designated staff member that the social worker wishes to speak to them and should be personally collected by that person.
- The school should provide a supportive role before and after the process.
- The DSL or designated person may need to be present throughout the interview process (this will be decided in consultation with the police/social worker and child).
- The child should be informed, by the person(s) interviewing them, of any action that will be undertaken.

Members of staff and volunteers are not required to investigate suspicions; if somebody believes that a child may be suffering, or may be at risk of suffering significant harm, they must always refer such concerns to Georgina Scott or Kristy Barter who will refer the matter to the relevant Children's Services.

***If you are not happy with the decision made as a result of your reporting, you have a responsibility to take the matter further.***

Where any member of staff fails to report their concerns, this may be dealt with as a disciplinary matter.



## Child Protection 'What to do' Child Cause for Concern Flowchart

Designated Safeguarding Lead is **Georgina Scott**, Headteacher.

Deputy Designated Safeguarding Lead **Kristy Barter**, SENDco and Acting Deputy Head.

Something a child says or does gives cause for concern or  
Someone observes injuries that appear to be non-accidental or  
A child or young person makes a direct allegation or implies that they have been abused or  
A child or young person makes an allegation against a member of staff (including volunteers and supply staff)



Ensure medical attention is received if necessary.



Remain calm, reassure, listen and use TED:

**T**ell me, **E**xplain, **D**escribe

Followed by:

Who, What, When and How.

**Do not promise confidentiality**



Complete **CPOMS Incident Online** and send alerts to Georgina Scott and Kristy Barter. (An alternative **yellow concern form** is also available in the staffroom if the online route is not available.)

Even if you have filled in CPOMS, let Georgina or Kristy know about it verbally straight away.



NB: If you are not happy with the response to your concern you have a duty to follow it up.

**Assess and Response Team ART 01454 866000**



## Child Protection 'What to do' Allegations against Staff Flowchart

Designated Safeguarding Lead is **Georgina Scott**, Headteacher.  
In her absence, **Kristy Barter**, SENDco and Acting Deputy Head, will adopt the role.

It is important that we have a culture of 'it could happen here'. Do not let relationships blind you to warning signs from colleagues.

Report **immediately** to Georgina Scott, Headteacher (or Kristy Barter in her absence) including time, date and name/s of those involved.

Georgina Scott will advise Louise McMillan, Chair of Governors.

If the allegation involves Georgina Scott it should be reported to the Chair of Governors.

If the Chair of Governors is unavailable, or it is felt the concern is not being taken seriously contact the South Gloucestershire LADO.

**Tina Wilson 01454 868508**



Maintain confidentiality and guard against publicity while an allegation is being considered or investigated.

Follow local information sharing protocols.



If, at any time, you feel that an allegation is not dealt with properly you **MUST** contact the LADO yourself.

See also:

<http://sites.southglos.gov.uk/safeguarding/children/>

