

Please remember to consider:
'It could happen here' and 'think beyond
the obvious'.

No child should suffer harm, either at
home or at school. Everyone who works
in our school has a responsibility to
make sure that all our young people are
safe.

This leaflet has been given to you to
make sure you understand what is
expected of you. Please ask the
school's DSL if you are unclear about
anything in it, and keep the leaflet in a
safe place, so that you can read it again
if you need to.

If you are worried about the safety of
any young person in our school, you
must report this to the DSL or
Headteacher

September 2024

CONTACTS

Headteacher:
Nicola Peck

**Senior Designated Person
for Safeguarding Children (DSL):**
Lindsay Wood Assistant Headteacher

Deputy DSL:
Nicola Peck – Headteacher
Karen Sage – Deputy Headteacher
Emma Bartle – Assistant Headteacher

**Governor with Safeguarding
responsibility:**
Vicky Moloney

Chair of Governors:
Nick Sanders



Chawson First School

**SAFEGUARDING ADVICE
FOR
VOLUNTEERS
&
REGULAR VISITORS**

Child Protection Advice

Thank you for your interest in becoming a volunteer or regular visitor. As a school we are committed to safeguarding and meeting the needs of children and we hope this leaflet will provide some useful advice and information when working with children at Chawson First School.

What are my responsibilities?

All those who come into contact with children through their every day work whether paid or voluntary have a duty to safeguard and promote the welfare of children.

DBS checks

Chawson First School's Recruiting and Selection Procedures specify that all adults who work in 'regulated activity' - i.e. unsupervised activities such as teach, train, instruct or supervise children; and work in a 'specified place' such as a school; and this work is regular i.e. once a week or more or 4 or more days in a 30 day period or overnight - will require an enhanced DBS Disclosure. This is to help ensure that unsuitable people are prevented from working with children. The Headteacher will inform you as to whether or not you require a DBS Disclosure. If you do not, you should not be left unsupervised with children.

DBS applications are made online. Please see the office staff who will advise you on the application process. They will also inform you which documentation is necessary for you to present for the ID check to be completed. In addition, you will be asked to provide the names of two people who can act as a character reference. If you work with Preschool or Reception, children you will be required to complete a 'disqualification by association' form. It is a requirement that you inform the Headteacher immediately if you become subject to any criminal investigation, caution or conviction. This helps to protect you as well as the young people in your care.

Chawson First School has a Safeguarding Policy and a copy is available from the school office.

What should I do if I am worried about a child?

If whilst working with a child you become concerned about:

- Comments made by a child
- Marks or bruising on a child
- Changes in the child's behaviour or demeanour

Please report these concerns to the class teacher who, if they feel it is appropriate, will pass the information on to the school's Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL) for Safeguarding.

What should I do if a child discloses that s/he is being harmed?

Although the likelihood of this is small it is important to know what to do in such an eventuality as children rarely lie about such matters

- Listen to what is being said without displaying shock or disbelief; accept what is being said
- Allow the child to talk freely
- Reassure the child, but do not make promises that might not be possible to keep
- Do not promise confidentiality but explain to the child that you may have to tell their teacher or Headteacher in order that they can provide appropriate help
- **Do not interrogate** the child or **ask leading questions**
- Reassure the pupil that it is not their fault
- Stress that it was the right thing to tell
- Do not ask the child to write a statement
- Do not criticise the alleged perpetrator

Immediately record details of the disclosure, including wherever possible the exact words or phrases used by the child. Yellow forms for the recording of information of this nature are available from any Senior Leader at the school or from the staffroom and should be completed and returned to the Senior Designated Person for Safeguarding to enable the matter to be dealt with in the most appropriate way. **Please ensure you have signed and dated the record.**

What should I do if the alleged abuser is a member of the school staff?

You should report such allegations to the Headteacher.

What should I do if the alleged abuser is the Headteacher?

You should report such allegations to the Chair of Governors. The school office can help you make contact with the Chair of Governors.

What should I do if I witness worrying behaviour by another adult in school?

You should always report this to the Headteacher.

How do I ensure that my behaviour is always appropriate?

Appropriate relationships with children should be based on mutual trust and respect.

As a volunteer or regular visitor you may well be working closely with children sometimes on a one to one basis.

Children, especially when they are young, are often spontaneously affectionate and tactile and it is important not to alienate them through lack of response or by appearing to reject this. You should, however, be careful about touching pupils.

If you are working with a pupil on his/her own always ensure that the door is left open or that you can be visible to others.

Do not photograph pupils, unless requested to by the class teacher, exchange e-mails or text messages, or give out your own personal details. Any unprofessional contact with pupils (e.g. through a social networking site) may leave you vulnerable to an allegation of abuse being made against you.

Please help us to safeguard the children in our care by following these guidelines.