BECKFOOT PRIESTTHORPE SCHOOL

Child Protection and Safeguarding Protocol

Leadership of Safeguarding

Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL)
Christina Gunning
Headteacher

Deputy Designated Safeguarding Lead (DDSL) & Early Help Lead Practitioner
Dawn Noutch
Parental Involvement

The Headteacher, as Designated Safeguarding Lead, has overall responsibility for the leadership of safeguarding. Cases are shared between the safeguarding team. Any member of staff can report concerns to any DSL or deputy DSL.

Organisation of Safeguarding

The safeguarding team meet weekly in the form of supervision to support reflective practice, professional challenge and decision making to ensure the following happens:

- Review CPOMS or record entries promptly.
- Check the bothering log
- Assess risk and determine appropriate action.
- Record decisions, actions and outcomes on CPOMS.
- Ensure referrals to Children's Social Care, Family Help services, the Local Authority Designated Officer (LADO), police or other agencies are recorded and tracked.
- Maintain oversight of pupils for whom there are multiple or recurring concerns.
- Regularly audit CPOMS records to identify patterns, themes and emerging safeguarding risks.
- Ensure cases are opened and closed in a timely and effective manner with appropriate actions taken and logs made.

In addition, the DSL has supervision with the Trust Lead Safeguarding Practitioner at least twice per cycle.

Reporting concerns

All staff, volunteers, contractors and visitors have a responsibility to safeguard and promote the welfare of children. Any concern, suspicion, disclosure or allegation relating to a child's welfare must be acted upon immediately and reported to the Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL) or, in their absence, a Deputy DSL. Staff must never assume that another person has taken action.

Staff should:

- Be alert to signs of abuse, neglect, exploitation, online harm, child-on-child abuse or other safeguarding concerns.
- Listen carefully to children and take all disclosures seriously.
- Reassure children that they have been heard but never promise confidentiality.
- Record concerns promptly and accurately.
- Report concerns to the DSL as soon as possible on the same working day.
- Refer concerns directly to Children's Social Care, the police or other appropriate agencies if there is an immediate risk of harm and inform the DSL as soon as possible thereafter.

How staff report concerns about children

When a concern arises, staff must:

- Record the concern on CPOMS promptly, ideally immediately following the incident, disclosure or observation.
- Use clear, factual and professional language.
- Record the child's exact words where a disclosure has been made.
- Distinguish between what was seen, heard, reported and any professional opinion.
- Include dates, times, locations, witnesses and actions taken.
- Attach any relevant documents or evidence where appropriate.
- Alert the Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL) and/or Deputy DSL through the CPOMS notification system or in person if urgent.

Staff must not:

- Keep separate unofficial records.
- Delay recording concerns until a later date.
- Investigate concerns themselves.
- Delete or amend records once submitted without authorisation from the DSL

Staff can also speak to a DSL if they have concerns around a child or family to seek advice.

Staff should also be vigilant when entering any event on the bothering log to trends or patterns and bring these to the attention of a DSL/Senior leader.

How children report concerns to staff

We talk to the children during assemblies and classroom time about who their safe adults are in school. Who they would feel comfortable talking to if they felt unsafe and what to do if they need help.

We also have worry boxes in the classrooms for children to share concerns if they want to do it that way.

In liaison with West Yorkshire Police, we also have 'Bobby the Bear', a soft toy based in the PIW room. The idea is that children can report worries from home or the community (and potential crimes) and school staff will follow this up. Bobby spends a week In each class In between his time In the PIW room so that the children are reminded of his presence.

How to speak to children when they are disclosing

When a child discloses abuse, it is crucial to respond with care and understanding. Here are some key points to consider when speaking to a child who is disclosing:

- Listen actively: Allow the child to express their feelings and thoughts without interruption. Use open-ended questions to encourage them to share more.
- Reassure the child: Let them know that they are not in trouble and that their feelings are important.
- Maintain a calm presence: Project a calm and reassuring presence to help the child feel safe and secure.
- Use their language: Speak in a way that the child understands, avoiding jargon or complex terms.
- Be patient: Understand that the process of disclosing abuse can take time. Encourage the child to take their time and be patient with themselves.
- It is important to remember that every child's experience of abuse is unique, and what works for one child may not work for another. Always prioritize the child's safety and well-being in the process of disclosure.

How families/external agencies and visitors can report concerns to school

The school website clearly signposts who the safeguarding leads are and both the DSL and DDSL are on the playground at the beginning and end of each day.

Contact details for the office are easy to find on the website.

The Trust CP policy and the school's local protocol are easy to access, and an email is provided so that families and outside agencies can easily contact a DSL in school.

The email address is: safeguarding@beckfootpriestthorpe.org

In addition to this, the office team are very approachable and well known by families and they would signpost anyone with concerns to the correct members of staff.

A visitor information sheet is available in the office so that anyone new to school knows the processes and who to speak to if they have a concern.

Mental Health and Safeguarding

Where there are concerns regarding a child's mental health from either school or families, we work together to signpost appropriate support. For example:

- We have a number of children who access support through Young Carers as well as pastoral support within school.
- Identified vulnerable children have pastoral support through our Parental Involvement Worker for a variety of reasons.
- The SENDCO can refer to MHST for individual support and also MNHES for children with EBSA.

We work in partnership with parents and outside agencies to provide the support required for all our vulnerable children. Bespoke support is sought as and when a need is identified.

We are also looking to begin working towards the Bradford Healthy Minds Chartermark during this academic year.

Preventative Curriculum (including online safety)

We use a mixture of published curricular – Story Project supplemented with, our No Outsiders programme, picture book assemblies with an equality and diversity focus, visitors, special safety assemblies and focus weeks (anti- bullying, safety week etc) to teach our preventative curriculum. This year we have added CPR training for KS2 children and added The Water Smart School's lessons into our assembly programme due to our geographical context.

Smoothwall monitoring is used to protect student and staff devices. Any device that accesses dangerous material immediately alerts the IT team and the headteacher/DSL. Additionally, the overview is shared with the HT on a weekly basis. The IT team regularly test different devices both onsite and remotely to check the system.

For our online safety curriculum we use 'Project Evolve' which is bespoke to the needs of each class for each year group curriculum area. The students have a quiz at the start of the unit and focus on weaker areas over each unit. It forms the first 15 minutes of our weekly lessons.

Medical Needs

School has an allergy and anaphylaxis register and annual staff training to ensure that they are aware of the signs and symptoms and can act accordingly.

The health lead regularly checks medications in school, expiry dates and storage of these.

School has spare AAI's which are stored in the office.

Posters are displayed around school for staff and pupils to support the children with medical needs.

All teaching staff and first aiders have had administering medications training from a trained professional.

Children have been made aware of allergies through the allergy school lessons as part of PSHCE and preventative curriculum.

Early Years Foundation Stage (if applicable)

Dawn Noutch is our named EYFS safeguarding lead.

The staff in EYFS and other year groups follow the Intimate Care Policy, and plans are written with parents and updated as required.

Snack is supervised to ensure safe eating practices are followed and a qualified first aider is always with the children when they are eating at lunch time.

How Beckfoot Trust works with multi-agency partners

Beckfoot Trust has a pivotal role to play in multi-agency safeguarding arrangements. Beckfoot Trust must ensure its schools contribute to multiagency working in line with statutory guidance Working Together to Safeguard Children.

Locally, the three safeguarding partners (the local authority; a clinical commissioning group for an area within the local authority; and the chief officer of police for an area (any part of which falls) within the local authority area) will make arrangements to work together with appropriate relevant agencies to safeguard and promote the welfare of local children, including identifying and responding to their needs. It is especially important that schools and colleges understand their role in the three safeguarding partner arrangements.

Each school will share with parents/carers any concerns we may have about their child unless to do so may place the child at risk of harm. Schools will endeavour to discuss all concerns with parents/carers about their child/ren. However, there may be exceptional circumstances when a school will discuss concerns with Social Care and/or the Police without parental knowledge (in accordance with Safeguarding Partnership's Child Protection Procedures). Our schools will, of course, always aim to maintain a positive relationship with all parents/carers. The Beckfoot Trust's Child Protection and Safeguarding Policy is available to all parents/carers upon request and online. We will seek ways to communicate with parents and carers to make them aware of the risks children face online, and how they can safeguarding their children online at home.

Beckfoot Trust recognises that 'working together' with a 'shared endeavour' is essential to establish positive and effective working relationships with other agencies.

The Data Protection Act 2018 and UK GDPR do not prevent the sharing of information for the purposes of keeping children safe. Fears about sharing information must not be allowed to stand in the way of the need to safeguard and promote the welfare and protect the safety of children. Please be aware that our aim is always to act professional with the child's safety and best interest at the forefront. We are committed to working positively, open and honestly with parents/carers. We ensure that all parents/carers are treated with respect, dignity and courtesy. We respect parents/carers' rights to privacy and confidentiality and will not share sensitive information unless we have permission or it is necessary to do so to protect a child.

Safeguarding within Bradford Metropolitan District Council

Bradford Metropolitan District Council are part of the West Yorkshire Consortium, which consist of Bradford, Leeds, Wakefield, Kirklees and Calderdale.

Beckfoot Trust schools work in partnership with Bradford Children's Social Care by attending networks, DSL training, referring to the integrated front door team and working with locality based social workers.

DSL's or members of the Safeguarding Team can make direct referrals to the Integrated Front Door/MASH team.

Schools must reference the Bradford Continuum of Need when deciding whether to make a referral or not.

Harmful Sexual Behaviour

Beckfoot Trust Schools use the Bradford Protocol to support their work when considering a child may be displaying harmful sexual behaviour.

harmful-sexual-behaviours-protocol-april-2021.pdf (saferbradford.co.uk)

Child exploitation

Beckfoot Trust Schools can refer directly to the CE hub, using the risk assessment document.

ce-risk-assessment-feb-2023

Health

The Bradford District and Craven Health Care Partnership is one of the Statutory Safeguarding partners. They have an obligation to attend strategy meetings and Initial Child Protection Case Conferences (ICPCC). If any health needs are identified for a child or family, health must work with them to resolve the outcomes.

Police

Home page | West Yorkshire Police

Members of the police sit within the MASH, and are part of discussions when practitioner make initial contact regarding concerns about a child. Members of the Police also attend Initial Child Protection Case Conferences (ICPCC) and strategy meetings.

Operation Encompass operates in all police forces across England. It helps police and schools work together to provide emotional and practical help to children. The system ensures that when police are called to an incident of domestic abuse, where there are children in the household who have experienced the domestic incident, the police will inform the key adult (usually the designated safeguarding lead) in school before the child or children arrive at school the following day. This ensures that the school has up to date relevant information about the child's circumstances and can enable immediate support to be put in place, according to the child's needs. Operation Encompass does not replace statutory safeguarding procedures. Where appropriate, the police and/or schools should make a referral to children's social care if they are concerned about a child's welfare.

Safeguarding contact details including out of hours and school holidays

There is always suitable safeguarding leadership available during school or college hours, with arrangements in place for out-of-hours activities where necessary. Beckfoot Priestthorpe have a safeguarding mailbox that is confidentially accessed by all members of the safeguarding team and during holiday periods by selected senior leaders in school, including the Headteacher of respective schools.

This email address is: safeguarding@beckfootpriestthorpe.org

Schools place out of office information below when school is closed to ensure external agencies know who to contact where appropriate.

If you are concerned about the safety or welfare of your child or another child, please call Children's Social Care Initial Contact point on 01274 433999 (8.30am-5pm Monday to Thursday, 8.30am-4.30pm on Friday). At all other times, please call Social Services Emergency Duty Team on 01274 431010. If you have reason to believe your child or another child is at immediate risk of harm, please call the Police on 999. In case of urgent Mental Health support, please call First Response on 0800 952 1181. If you are concerned that a child is being harmed, you must not keep these concerns to yourself. contact the numbers above to ensure that you speak to a suitable person who can listen to and record your concerns and take appropriate action.