

# THE ROSEWOOD SCHOOL

## CHILD PROTECTION POLICY 2017-2018



Staff Responsible

Mr D Kirk

Policy Date –

September 2017

Review Date –

September 2018

## **Child Protection Policy**

### **Child Protection Policy Statement**

Rosewood School recognises its legal duty under s.175/157 Education Act 2002 to work with other agencies in safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people and protecting them from “significant harm”. These duties are defined by:

- “Working Together to Safeguard Children” (2015)
- Keeping Children Safe in Education (2016)
- Dudley Safeguarding Children Board (DSCB) - Safeguarding Children Procedures <http://safeguarding.dudley.gov.uk/>
- This policy takes into account “Keeping Children safe in Education Update” may 2016.

Rosewood School is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of all children and young people both within the school environment and outside. Safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children is everyone’s responsibility.

Rosewood School is committed in ensuring that all staff who come into contact with children and their families and carers has a role to play in safeguarding children. In order to fulfil the responsibility effectively, the school will ensure their approach is child centred. This means that they will consider, at all times, what is in the best interests of the child.

Because of our day-to-day contact with children and young people, education staff are particularly well placed to observe outward signs of abuse, changes in children’s behaviour or their failure to develop. We need, therefore to be alert to the possibility of abuse occurring, aware of the procedures to be followed if the school have suspicions and have the confidence to follow those procedures. This policy applies to all staff, governors and volunteers working in the school.

### **Policy Aims**

The aim of this policy is to provide information for all staff to carry out this duty of care responsibly.

The six main elements of the policy are:

- Ensuring we practice safe recruitment through checking the suitability of staff and volunteers to work with children.
- Raising awareness of child protection issues and equipping children with the skills needed to keep them safe.
- Implementing procedures for identifying and reporting cases, or suspected cases, of abuse.
- Supporting pupils who have been abused in accordance with his / her child

protection plan.

- Establishing a safe environment in which children can learn and develop.
- Ensuring there are links with other safeguarding policies and procedures for example, anti-bullying, behaviour policy, attendance, physical intervention, medical conditions, first aid, intimate care, educational visits, sexual exploitation, sexting, disability, homophobic abuse, racism, domestic abuse, female genital mutilation, radicalisation and extremism, honour based violence. For further information on some of these procedures, refer to the DSCB website. There is also separate guidance for school on what to do in the event of a death of a child, use of images and safer working practice guidance.

We recognise that because of the day-to-day contact with children, our staff are well placed to observe the outward signs of abuse. The school will therefore:

- Establish and maintain an environment where children feel secure, are encouraged to talk, and are listened to.
- Ensure children know that there are adults in the school whom they can approach if they are worried.
- Include opportunities in the curriculum for children to develop the skills they need to recognise and stay safe from harm.

## **Procedures**

Rosewood School will ensure that all staff follow the procedures set out by the Dudley Safeguarding Children Board and take account of guidance issued by the Department of Education (DfE) to:

- Ensure we have a designated safeguarding lead for child protection who has received appropriate training and support for this role. The designated safeguarding lead for the school is David Kirk. The deputy designated safeguarding leads are Mrs A Cooper and Mrs B Guider.
- Ensure we have a nominated governor responsible for child protection. The designated Governor for Child Protection for the school is Mrs. J Brown.
- Ensure every member of staff (including temporary and supply staff and volunteers) and governing body knows the name of the designated safeguarding lead and deputies (if any) responsible for child protection and their role.
- Ensure all staff and volunteers understand their responsibilities in being alert to the signs of abuse and responsibility for referring any concerns to the designated safeguarding lead responsible for child protection.
- Ensure that parents have an understanding of the responsibility placed on the school and staff for child protection by setting out its obligations in the school prospectus. Parents should be made aware of the policies and procedures.
- Ensure that parents are aware that this policy is available on request, and make the policy available on the school website.
- Develop effective links with relevant agencies and co-operate as required with their enquiries regarding child protection matters including attendance at child protection meetings.

- Develop links with other agencies that support the child such as Child and Adult Mental Health Service, Education Investigation and Education Psychology Service.
- Keep written records of concerns about children, even where there is no need to refer the matter immediately.
- Ensure all records are kept securely; separate from the main pupil file, and in locked locations.
- Ensure that all staff are aware of what to do if there are concerns around a child. Appendix 1 refers to what to do if you are concerned. A multi-agency referral (MARF) must be completed when making a referral and can be accessed from the DSCB website.

## **Role and Responsibilities of Designated Safeguarding Lead**

The Designated Safeguarding Lead has ultimate responsibility and management oversight and accountability for safeguarding and child protection. There may be deputy safeguarding leads within the School. (It is a matter for individual schools as to whether they choose to have one or more deputy designated lead (s)).

When the school has concerns about a child, the Designated Safeguarding Lead will decide what steps should be taken and should advise the Head Teacher/ Principal.

Child protection information will be dealt with in a confidential manner.

Staff will be informed of relevant details only when the Designated

Safeguarding Lead feels that those staff having knowledge of a situation will improve their ability to deal with an individual child and / or family. A written record will be made of what information has been shared with whom, and when.

Child protection records will be stored securely in a central place separate from academic records. Individual files will be kept for each child: the school will not keep family files. Files will be kept for at least the period during which the child is attending the school, and beyond that in line with current data legislation and guidance.

Access to these records by staff other than by the Designated Safeguarding Lead will be restricted.

Parents will be aware of information held on their children and kept up to date regarding any concerns or developments by the appropriate members of staff. General communications with parents will be in line with any home school policies and give due regard to which adults have parental responsibility. The Rosewood School will not disclose to a parent any information held on a child if this places the child at risk of significant harm.

If a pupil/student moves from our school, child protection records will be forwarded on to the Designated Safeguarding Lead at the new school, with due regard to their confidential nature and in line with current government guidance on the transfer of such records. Direct contact between the two schools may be necessary, especially on transfer from primary to secondary schools. The Rosewood School will record where and to whom the records have been passed and the date.

If sending by post pupil records will be sent by "Special/Recorded Delivery". For audit purposes a note of all pupil records transferred or received should be kept in either paper or electronic format. This will include the child's name, date of birth, where and to whom the records have been sent and the date sent and/or received.

If a pupil/student is permanently excluded and moves to a Pupil Referral Unit, child protection records will be forwarded on to the relevant organisation.

Where a vulnerable young person is moving to a Further Education establishment, consideration should be given to the student's wishes and feelings on their child protection information being passed on in order that the FE establishment can provide appropriate support.

### **Roles and Responsibility of Governors and Governing Bodies**

It is the responsibility of governing bodies and proprietors to ensure that they comply with their duties under legislation. They must have regards to this guidance to ensure that the policies, procedures and training in their schools are effective and comply with the law at all times.

The statutory guidance, Keeping Children Safe in Education 2016 places statutory requirements on all governing bodies. Governing bodies must make sure that their school has policies and procedures in place and take into account any guidance issued by the Secretary of State, any LA guidance and locally agreed inter- agency procedures.

### **INVOLVING PARENTS / CARERS**

In general, we will discuss any child protection concerns with parents /carers before approaching other agencies, and will seek their consent to making a referral to another agency. Appropriate staff will approach parents / carers after consultation with the Designated Safeguarding Lead. However there may be occasions when the school will contact another agency before informing parents/carers because it considers that contacting them may increase the risk of significant harm to the child. Parents / carers will be informed

about our Child Protection Policy through our parent handbook, website, newsletter and designated board.

### Safer Recruitment and Employment Practices

Rosewood School will follow Safer Recruitment processes (DSCB procedures) which will include the following:

- Declaration of the intent to undertake a DBS check in the advertisement
- Ensuring that at least one member of the interview panel has attended DSCB Safer Recruitment training
- Ensuring that references are gained before interview
- Ensuring that a safeguarding question is included in the interview
- Ensuring that any gaps in employment are explored at interview
- Undertake a DBS check at the relevant level to the position
- All Governors now require an Enhanced DBS check
- The Prohibition of teaching checks must be completed for everyone engaged in 'teaching work', whether a qualified teacher or not: and recorded on the Single Central Record

Rosewood School will follow the "Managing Allegations against Staff (DSCB Procedures). The Head Teacher will deal with allegations made against school staff. All allegations against the Head Teacher will be referred to the Chair of Governors.

In addition to this Rosewood School will have routine systems for continually monitoring the performance of staff ensuring compliance with both child protection procedures and the code of good practice? All staff within Rosewood will adhere to the Guidance for Safer Working Practice for Children and Young People in Education Settings (October 2015). This covers a wide range of issues around staff conduct e.g. Use of Mobile Phones etc. All staff have access to the counselling service within Dudley Council.

If any concerns or allegations are made against members of staff, in the first instance these should be discussed with the Local Area Designated Officer (LADO). It is useful at this stage to also provide full names of the member of staff and child involved in the allegation, their dates of birth, addresses and details of any previous concerns, as this will avoid delay. All allegations against people who work with children will be passed on to the LADO in accordance with the Working Together to Safeguard Children (2015) and the DSCB Safeguarding Children Procedures. A LADO Referral and Monitoring form will need to be completed.

If staff have concerns about a fellow colleague, they should follow the Whistle Blowing Procedures.

The NSCPCC whistle blowing helpline is available for staff within our School, who do not feel able to raise concerns regarding child protection failures internally. Staff can call: 0800 028 0285. The email address is [help@nscpp.org.uk](mailto:help@nscpp.org.uk)

### **Referral to Disclosure & Barring Service (DBS)**

Any employee who is dismissed or resigns due to a child protection case will be referred to the DBS, who will consider the future risk and harm the individual poses to vulnerable groups including children.

The Single Central record must be in place and include all the areas covered in the Keeping Children Safe in Education (2016). Further advice on this can be sought from your HR Officer linked to your school.

### **Staff support**

We recognise the stressful and traumatic nature of child protection work. We will support staff by providing an opportunity to talk through their anxieties with the Designated Safeguarding Lead and to seek further support as appropriate.

### **Information Sharing, Confidentiality and Record Keeping**

Confidentiality is an issue, which needs to be discussed and fully understood by all those working with children, particularly in the context of child protection. Every effort should be made to ensure that confidentiality is maintained for all concerned. Information should be handled and disseminated on a need to know basis only.

Staff within our School are clear that if they have any concerns about a child (as opposed to a child being in immediate danger) they will need to decide what action to take. Where possible, they will have a conversation with the designated safeguarding lead to agree a course of action. Although staff members can make a referral to children's social care.

Rosewood School is committed to the Early Help approach and staff are able to identify learners who need support through this route.

If a child is in immediate danger or is at risk of harm a referral should be made to the Single Point of Access Team and / or the police immediately.

Telephone Contact - **0300 555 0050**

Advice should be sought, from the Single Point of Access Team (SPA) where the child lives, on, who should approach the alleged abuser (or parents if the alleged abuser is a child).

Information will be stored in a secure place with restricted access to designated people and be maintained in line with data protection laws (e.g. that information is accurate, regularly updated, relevant and secure).

It may be necessary to liaise and where necessary, challenge other agencies involved, in order to obtain relevant information to support the child appropriately. If a child resides in another borough but attends a school in Dudley Rosewood will ensure that we liaise with the Local Authority in which the child resides.

If a child who is subject to a child protection plan leaves, their information should be transferred to the new school immediately and that child's social worker is informed.

## ***The Curriculum***

Child protection and wider child safety issues will be addressed through the curriculum as appropriate. Relevant issues will be addressed through the curriculum, for example self-esteem, emotional literacy, assertiveness, power, sex and relationship education, e-safety and bullying.

### **Other areas of work**

All our policies which address issues of power and potential harm, for example bullying, on-line safety, equal opportunities, handling, positive behaviour, will be linked to ensure a whole school approach.

Our Child Protection policy cannot be separated from the general ethos of the school, which should ensure that pupils/students are treated with respect and dignity, taught to treat each other with respect, feel safe, have a voice, and are listened to.

Staff will follow DSCB Children Procedures if there are concerns around peer on peer abuse. This is most likely to include, but not limited to: bullying (including cyber bullying), gender based violence / sexual assaults and sexting.

### **Virtual School Heads**

Rosewood School is committed in working with the Virtual school Head and supporting the progress of looked after children in the school and meet the needs identified in the child's personal education plan.

## **Children with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities**

The Rosewood School is committed to working with children with special educational needs (SEN) and disabilities who often face additional safeguarding challenges. This can include:

- Assumptions that indicators of possible abuse such as behaviour, mood and injury relate to the child's disability without further exploration;
- Children with SEN and disabilities can be disproportionately impacted by things like bullying without outwards showing any signs;
- Communication barriers and difficulties in overcoming these barriers.

## **Training and Development**

Rosewood School is committed to ensuring all staff are trained to a high standard. The detail around this is set out below.



According to 'Keeping Children Safe in Education ' (2016), The Designated Safeguarding Lead and any deputies should undergo training to provide them with the knowledge and skills required to carry out the role. The training should be updated every two years.

In addition to their formal training, as set out above, their knowledge and skills should be updated , (for example via e-bulletins, meetings other designated safeguarding leads, or taking time to read and digest safeguarding developments), At regular intervals, but at least annually, to keep up with any developments relevant to their role.

Governing bodies and proprietors should ensure that all staff undergo safeguarding and child protection training at induction. The training should be regularly updated and in line with advice from DSCB.

In addition all staff members should ensure regular safeguarding and child protection updates (for example, via email, e. Bulletins, staff meetings), as required, but at least annually, to provide them with the relevant skills and knowledge to safeguard children effectively.

#### Implementation, Review and Monitoring

Implementation will take place by ensuring this policy is discussed at the governors meeting and ensuring all staff are made aware of its existence.

This Policy will be monitored and reviewed on an annual basis. A copy of this Policy is also available on the School website.

### **Supporting Documents**

DSCB Safeguarding Children Procedures

<http://safeguarding.dudley.gov.uk/>

Working Together to Safeguard Children (2015)

Keeping Children Safe in Education (2016)

Guidance for safer working practice for those working with children and young people in education setting (October 2015)

Schools Anti-Bullying Policy

Schools Complaints Procedure

## APPENDIX 1

### What to do if you are concerned:

#### (Concerns outside the immediate environment (e.g. a parent or carer))

- Report your concerns to the, Designated *Safeguarding Lead* who should contact Single Point of Access (SPA) Team or the Police as soon as possible.
- If the *Designated Safeguarding Lead* is not available, then the Head Teacher or the person currently responsible for the school should be informed. (This is to ensure there is no delay in seeking advice or making a referral).
- The SPA Team and the *Designated Safeguarding Lead* will decide how to involve the parents/carers. Parents should not be informed if to do so would increase risk to the child'.
- Maintain confidentiality on a **need to know** basis only.

### Information for social care or the police about suspected abuse

To ensure that this information is as helpful as possible, a detailed record should always be made at the time of the disclosure/concern, which should include the following:

- The reasons for your concern
- Full name and date of birth of the child
- Names and dates of birth of the child's family/household members
- Other agencies/professionals involved with the family
- The child's first language and any special needs
- The child's developmental needs, family and environmental factors and parenting capacity
- Any work you may have already undertaken with the child and family

All incidents will be reported on a Multi –Agency Referral Form (MARF)

Responding to allegations or suspicions (about someone working with children or young people (e.g. a teaching assistant)

It is not the responsibility of anyone working within Rosewood, in a paid or unpaid capacity to decide whether or not child abuse has taken place. However, there is a responsibility to act on any concerns by reporting these to the appropriate officer or the appropriate authorities.

Rosewood School will ensure all staff/volunteers that it will fully support and protect anyone, who in good faith reports his or her concern that a colleague is, or may be, abusing a child.

All allegations or suspicions of abuse will be taken seriously and treated in accordance with these procedures. They will be applied when there is an allegation or concern that any person, who works with children, in connection with their employment, voluntary or personal activity, has:

- Behaved in a way that has harmed a child, or may have harmed a child;
- Possibly committed a criminal offence against, or related to a child;

- Behaved towards a child or children in a way that indicates they are likely to pose a risk of harm to children

These behaviours will be considered within the context of the four categories of abuse (i.e. physical, sexual and emotional abuse and neglect). This includes concerns relating to inappropriate relationships between members of staff and children or young people, for example:

- Having a sexual relationship with a child under 18 if in a position of trust in respect of that child, even if consensual (s16-19 *Sexual Offences Act 2003*);
- 'Grooming', i.e. meeting a child under 16 with intent to commit a relevant offence (s15 *Sexual Offences Act 2003*);
- Other 'grooming' behaviour giving rise to concerns of a broader child protection nature (e.g. inappropriate text / e-mail messages or images, gifts, socializing etc);
- Possession of sexual images of children / pseudo-photographs of children.

The definition of working with children includes paid and unpaid staff, volunteers and carers (including foster and adoptive carers). It may include everyone who works in Rosewood School, including administrative and other support staff.

### **Action if there are concerns**

Concerns about poor practice:

- If, following consideration, the allegation is clearly about poor practice; the Head Teacher will deal with it as a misconduct issue.
- If the allegation is about poor practice by the Designated , *Safeguarding Lead*, or if the matter has been handled inadequately and concerns remain, it should be reported to the Head Teacher / Chair of Governors who will decide on whether disciplinary action should be taken and the next steps to take.

Concerns about suspected abuse

- Any suspicion that a child has been abused by either a member of staff or a volunteer must be reported to the Designated *Safeguarding Lead* / Head Teacher, who will take such steps as considered necessary to ensure the safety of the child in question and any other child who may be at risk.
- The Designated *Safeguarding Lead* / Head Teacher will refer the allegation to the SPA Team who may involve the Police. All allegations against people who work with children must be passed onto the LADO.

- The parents or carers of the child will be contacted as soon as possible following advice from the SPA Team.
- If the Designated Safeguarding Lead is the subject of the suspicion/allegation, the concern must be shared with the Head Teacher. If the Head Teacher is the subject of the concern / allegation, the concern must be shared with the Chair of Governor. The Chair of Governors will liaise with the Designated Officer for Managing Allegations and HR.

### **Internal Enquiries and Suspension**

- The Head Teacher will liaise with the Chair of Governors and make an immediate decision about whether any individual accused of abuse should be temporarily suspended pending further police and social care inquiries. Advice can also be sought from the Human Resources Section and the LADO.
- Irrespective of the findings of the SPA Team or Police inquiries the Head Teacher / Chair of Governors will assess all individual cases to decide whether an individual can be reinstated and how this can be sensitively handled. This may be a difficult decision; particularly where there is insufficient evidence to uphold any action by the police. In such cases, the Chair of Governors and Head Teacher must reach a decision based upon the available information which could suggest that on a balance of probability; it is more likely than not that the allegation is true. The welfare of the child should remain of paramount importance throughout.