

Woodthorpe Primary School

Executive Headteacher: James McGann
Head of School: Charlotte Grason-Taylor
Chair of Governors: Sheriden Hutchinson-Jones

Our school is a happy, exciting and caring community in which each child thrives.

Safeguarding update - January 2024

Safeguarding at National Level - what is happening?

In-year updates

Since the September 2023 updates to Keeping Children Safe in Education (KCSIE), which included increased focus on online filtering and monitoring within schools, there have been a few further changes worth sharing, particularly around school's prevent duty.

The Prevent duty requires all education providers 'to help prevent the risk of people becoming terrorists or supporting terrorism'. This includes safeguarding learners from extremist ideologies and radicalisation. It is important to highlight our school's ethos of 'it could happen here' and that we are vigilant and aware of some of the possible signs. You can find the updated information attached. For further information understanding of the possible signs of radicalisation, please click the link [here](#).

It is also useful to have a timely reminder of another key document, which is referred to within KCSIE: 'Working Together to Safeguard Children'. This statutory document is based around schools, as part of a multi-agency team, working to help, protect and promote the welfare of children. This was updated in 2023 and the revised version clearly sets out each of the partner roles. Please see further information attached. Many of these systems are in place within schools already, however this documentation highlights the need for all agencies to work together effectively to provide the best possible care and support for children.

Safeguarding at a local level - what is happening in York?

Mental Health

As we are all aware, supporting mental health has and will always be one of our biggest priorities within school. According to recent statistics, 10% of children and young people (aged 5 to 16 years) have a clinically diagnosable mental problem, yet 70% of children and adolescents who experience mental health problems have not had appropriate interventions at a sufficiently early age.

At Woodthorpe, each and every one of us goes above and beyond to support children's mental health, from our intensive pastoral support for the whole family, to daily circle check-ins, robust PSHE curriculum and highly inclusive ethos to name but a few of our strategies.

Mental health support requires joined up thinking and sometimes multi-agency working. In order to support families who are in need or perhaps waiting for support, the council has put together a list of useful books, apps and websites in order to support emotional wellbeing. This list can be found attached and although not exhaustive, does provide some practical and manageable tips and advice.

Safeguarding at school level - what is happening in school?

Domestic Violence

Although crime statistics for Woodthorpe are relatively low, those that do appear, can often centre around domestic disturbances and violence. Nationally, latest reports estimate that between 1 in 3 and 1 in 4 of children have experienced domestic abuse.

The Government's definition of domestic abuse is: "Any incident or pattern of incidents of controlling, coercive or threatening behaviour, violence or abuse between those aged 16 or over who are or have been intimate partners or family members regardless of gender or sexuality. This can encompass, but is not limited to the following types of abuse: psychological, physical, sexual, financial, emotional. Controlling behaviour includes a range of acts designed to make a person subordinate and/or dependent by isolating them from sources of support, exploiting their resources and capacities for personal gain, depriving them of the means needed for independence, resistance and escape and regulating their everyday behaviour. Coercive behaviour includes an act or a pattern of acts of assault, threats, humiliation and intimidation or other abuse that is used by perpetrators to harm, punish, or frighten their victim. This includes issues of concern to black and minority ethnic (BME) communities such as so-called honour based violence, forced or early marriage and female genital mutilation. All forms of domestic abuse involve perpetrators seeking to exert power and control over their partners or family members and often incorporates a range and variety of different abusive behaviours.

It is important that we are alert to this and keep an extra close eye on any children who may be exhibiting signs such as [these](#).

Operation Encompass is the name of the division within the Police force that deals with domestic abuse cases and who will send alerts through to school if there has been any disturbances within the families in our school community where a child has been present. They have put together a number of useful resources to help schools to play their part in breaking the cycle. Please read the information [here](#) and help us be more vigilant and aware of this threat within our local community. As ever, if you have any safeguarding concerns, as a matter of urgency, please speak to a member of the safeguarding team.

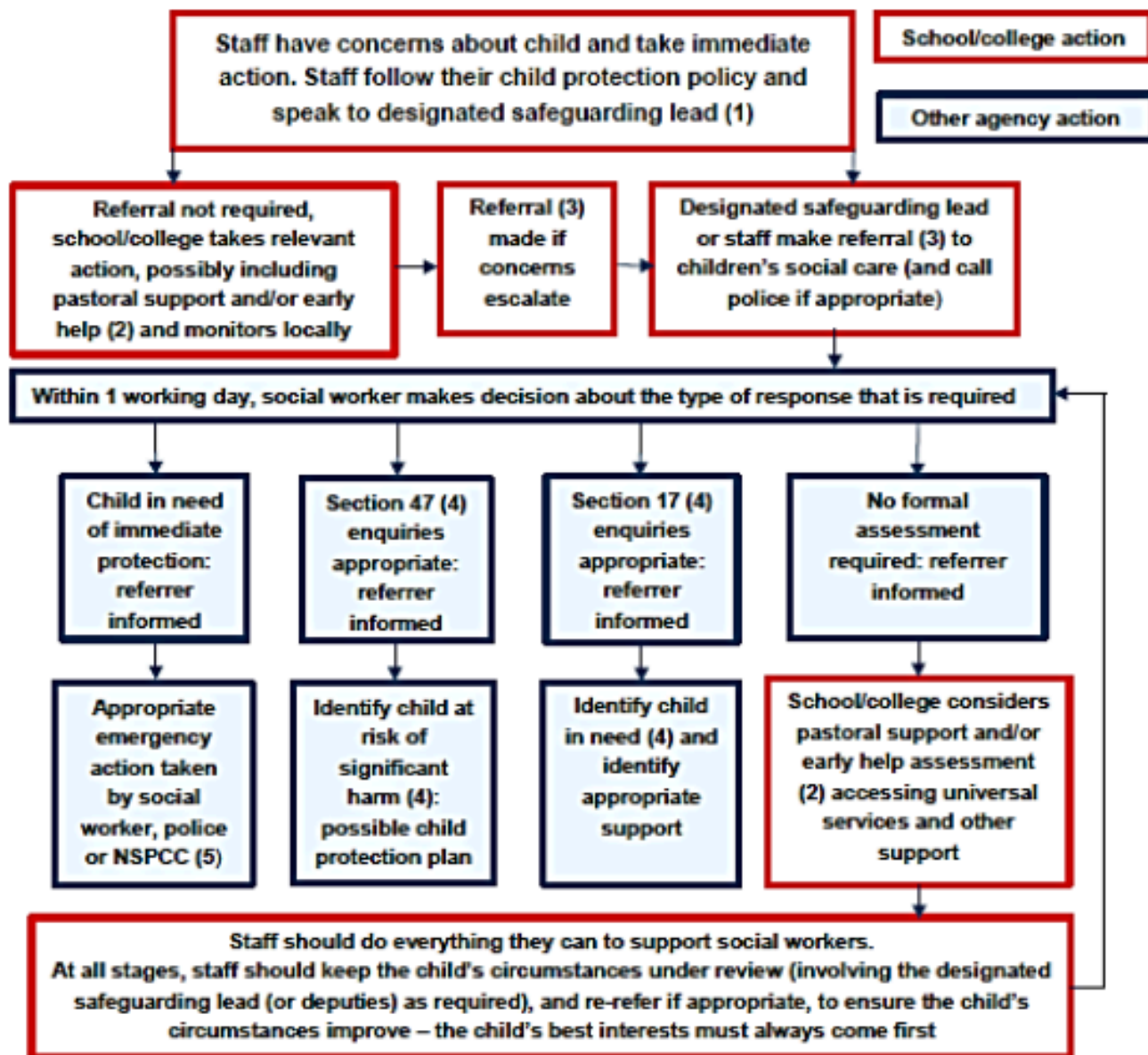
School policy & procedures: reporting concerns

Safeguarding is our number one priority. We all work under the assumption that 'it could happen here' and ensure that action will be taken to protect a child where that child is suffering harm or is likely to suffer harm. Staff are in a unique position that can allow them to identify safeguarding concerns at an early stage. We have a role beyond that of educating pupils or supporting the smooth running of the school, which extends to the care and basic human rights of each young person.

A copy of our child protection policy can be found here: [SBMAT Safeguarding](#)

This quick view flow chart (included within the policy) also provides clear action in relation to where there are concerns about a child:

Actions where there are concerns about a child



If you would like to discuss the content of this document in any more detail, please speak to a member of our safeguarding team:

- **James McGann** Designated Safeguarding and Child Protection Leader
- **Charlotte Grason-Taylor** Designated Safeguarding and Child Protection Deputy
- **Lucy Scrowston** Safeguarding and Child Protection Deputy
- **Mark Hassak (CEO)** Report any concerns regarding the Headteacher directly to him under the Whistleblowing Policy
- **Sheriden Hutchinson-Jones** Chair of Governors
- **Jenny Parker** Safeguarding Governor